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The Daily Telegraph



**'Grief is the
price we pay
for love'**

HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II



1926-2022

Queen Elizabeth II 1926–2022



There was a sense that as long as she was

We all knew how the story had to end, but how are we supposed to manage without our rock in such a tumultuous world?

Allison Pearson



I don't have to believe it if I don't want to." That was how the novelist John O'Hara reacted when he heard that his friend, George Gershwin, had died. Many of her subjects will have felt something similar at 6.32pm on Sept 8 2022 when we heard the seismic news that our Queen had left us. It is unbearably sad. A loss almost too great to process. But, as the Queen said in a message of British

victims lost in the 9/11 terrorist attack: "Grief is the price we pay for love."

How are we supposed to manage without her? Who are we without her? She has always been there; a still point in a tumultuous world; the clock face over which the hands of time revolved for as long as anyone could remember. (Her Majesty's first prime minister was born in 1874; her last almost exactly a century later in 1975. Her long life, the home movie of our history; her face, the screensaver of the United Kingdom; a diadem in the national firmament; the stamp on every letter; the silhouette of the national self. Our

Prince William, Prince Andrew and the Earl and Countess of Wessex arrive at Balmoral, main. Prince Harry, left, is driven to the castle. Elsewhere, centre, the Union flag is lowered over the Tower of London; Huw Edwards, right, announces the death of Her Majesty on BBC One

Queen. Of course, we knew that she was very old and we knew how the story had to end. "Mobility issues" was palace-speak for the fact that our longest-reigning monarch, who put one sturdy foot in front of the other like the fell pony she rode every day until remarkably recently, was waning. But, there she was on Tuesday at Balmoral, frail, yes, but welcoming her 15th prime minister with the most wonderful smile, immaculate in a grey tartan skirt and pearls. Everything must have been shutting down by then, but duty, her irreducible core, would be the last thing to go. "It is a job for

life." That's what Princess Elizabeth said when she lost her beloved father in 1952.

And it was. She was our Queen until the moment of her death and, God knows, we could not have wished for a better one.

Did we come to believe she was immortal? I think we probably did in some weird way because losing something that permanent is impossible for the mind to comprehend, like the moon going out or the stars packing up. There was a sense, never articulated, that, as long as the Queen was there, things would

'Did we come to believe she was immortal? I think we probably did in some weird way'



Family fly to Balmoral as Elizabethan Age ends at the place Her Majesty loved best

Britain's longest-serving monarch, grandmother of the nation, dies 'peacefully' at her Scottish home

By Hannah Furness ROYAL EDITOR

QUEEN ELIZABETH II has died at the age of 96, at the Balmoral home she loved so much.

Britain's longest-reigning monarch passed away yesterday afternoon, the news announced after the Queen's family had flown in to be together at her Scottish estate.

Queen Elizabeth II had pledged to dedicate her life to duty and did just that until her final days, appointing her 15th prime minister just 48 hours before her death.

Buckingham Palace confirmed she had died in a statement at 6.30pm.

Her Majesty's health is understood to have deteriorated rapidly yesterday, with members of her family making last-minute arrangements to fly to Balmoral.

She is succeeded by her eldest son and heir, whom a spokesman confirmed will be known as King Charles III.

In a written statement last night, he described his mother's death as a "moment of the greatest sadness for me and all members of my family". The Duchess of Cornwall has become the Queen Consort.

Queen Elizabeth's death comes after one of the most significant periods of her reign, in which she rallied the nation during the coronavirus pandemic and felt the affection of her people as she returned to public life after the death of the Duke of Edinburgh and celebrated her Platinum Jubilee year.

The news will set in motion a period of national mourning for a monarch few can remember life without.

It was announced in a brief but moving statement, only after senior members of the Royal family gathered at Balmoral to say their final farewell.

Under the simple heading "Queen Elizabeth II 1926-2022" in the statement issued at 6.30pm, Buckingham Palace said: "The Queen died peacefully at Balmoral this afternoon."

"The King and Queen Consort will remain at Balmoral this evening and will return to London tomorrow."

For her millions of admirers, news of the Queen's death came suddenly, just six hours after it emerged she was seriously unwell.

She was last photographed formally appointing the new Prime Minister, Liz Truss, at Balmoral on Tuesday. She postponed a virtual Privy Council meeting the following day, after being advised by doctors to rest.

At 12.30pm yesterday Buckingham Palace announced that she was under the care of her doctors at her Scottish home. "Following further evaluation this morning, the Queen's doctors are concerned for Her Majesty's health and have recommended she remain under medical supervision," a spokesman said. "The Queen remains comfortable and at Balmoral."

The news, relayed to the Royal family only shortly beforehand, set in motion a major operation to bring her four children and the Duke of Cambridge and Sussex to her side.

The Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall, who were already in Scotland, travelled by helicopter from Dumfries House in the first sign to the public of how serious the Queen's condition was.

The Duke of Cambridge, who had that morning dropped his three children off for their first full day of school, made emergency arrangements to travel from Windsor. He flew on an RAF plane with the Duke of York and the Earl and Countess of Wessex.

Landing at 3.50pm, the Duke was seen driving the family between Aberdeen airport and Balmoral. They arrived at the castle just after 5pm, by which time news of the Queen's death had been delivered to their inner circle. The Duchess of Cambridge chose to stay at home to be there when her children returned from school and relay the news about their great-grandmother in



The official notice outside Buckingham Palace announcing the Queen's death yesterday

person. In Britain for a few days by coincidence, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex cancelled an engagement at the WellChild awards yesterday evening and were said by a spokesman to be heading to Balmoral together.

This was later amended to say Prince Harry was travelling alone, returning to his family in their hour of deepest sorrow. He was photographed arriving at Balmoral shortly before 8pm, four hours after his brother and uncles.

The Prime Minister was told of the Queen's death at 4.30pm by Simon Case, the Cabinet Secretary. She spoke to the King shortly before delivering her public statement, in which she paid tribute to Her Majesty as the "rock on which modern Britain was built".

The Queen's death at Balmoral may well come as deep comfort for her family, who knew how much her Scottish home meant to her. She is the first monarch to die there.

Her four children and most of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren have spent time with her there this summer, enjoying the countryside of the Highlands and the picnics that have been such a part of their summer retreat for decades.

Last night, the magnitude of the Queen's death was captured by tributes from world leaders, her prime ministers and the public, the vast majority of whom, an estimated 58.8million in the

'On her 21st birthday, she declared that "my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to service"

UK alone, have never known life without her. This summer, millions turned out to show the Queen just how much she meant to them, in Platinum Jubilee celebrations that saw her appear on the Buckingham Palace balcony to uproarious cheers.

Her Majesty had enjoyed remarkably good health until her mid-90s, where she scaled back her public appearances after suffering mobility issues and illness that required her to rest.

As she increasingly suffered from what Buckingham Palace described as "episodic mobility problems", she was compelled to miss events, including the state opening of parliament, service of remembrance at the Cenotaph and Commonwealth Day. In February 2022, she contracted Covid-19 amid an outbreak at Windsor Castle, but appeared to have recovered well.

She appeared at the Chelsea Flower Show in a golf buggy in a rare concession to her age, but went on a miss a string of her favourite engagements from Royal Ascot to the Braemar Games just last weekend. Through it all, she maintained her devotion to her constitutional duties, reading her red boxes and holding audiences.

Moving out of the Buckingham Palace "office" to the more homely Windsor Castle, she embraced a new era of video calls to keep up her duties without inconveniencing others.

The announcement of her death marks the start of a period of national mourning, with the Royal court to spend one month officially honouring

her memory. Across the country, Union flags will be lowered, church services held and condolence books offered for members of the public to pay their respects during the most seismic institutional change of most of their lifetimes.

Her Majesty's many admirers are expected to be welcomed to commemorate her life over the coming 10 days, as she lies in state at Westminster Hall, in a funeral at Westminster Abbey and a spectacular ceremonial procession to her final resting place at St George's Chapel, Windsor.

There, she will be laid to rest next to the Duke of Edinburgh, who died in April 2021 aged 99, in services designed around her deeply devoted Christian beliefs. Buckingham Palace will release official arrangements for the funeral in the coming days, after they have been signed off by the new King.

Aides have now instigated Operation London Bridge, the codename for the Queen's funeral plans. The funeral is expected to take place in 10 days' time.

Queen Elizabeth II overtook Queen Victoria as Britain's longest-serving monarch in September 2015.

She will go down in history as one of the nation's greatest sovereigns, having steered the country through the Cold War, given counsel to 15 prime ministers and built the Commonwealth into an organisation whose membership grew throughout her reign.

After navigating difficult times for the Royal family, affection and loyalty for her was at a high in her latter years in which she was viewed as the grandmother of the nation and a beacon of stability.

During her reign, she visited 116 countries on 261 official overseas visits, which included 78 state visits, making her by far the most travelled monarch in history.

She also worked tirelessly to promote the more than 600 charities of which she was patron. Despite her exhaustive schedule of engagements, the Queen would begin every day by reading through State papers sent to her by government departments in the famous "red boxes", approving and signing them where necessary.

This routine never varied, no matter where in the world she was.

When she was born on April 21 1926, Elizabeth's parents had no reason to expect that she would one day be Queen; her father's older brother, Edward VIII, was heir to the throne, and it was only on his abdication in 1936 that Elizabeth became heir presumptive.

On her 21st birthday, in an address from Cape Town, she had declared that "my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service". She spent the rest of her life making good on that pledge, and the nation showed its gratitude to her with the memorable celebrations of her silver, golden, diamond and platinum jubilees.

The Queen is survived by her four children: the new King, the Princess Royal, the Duke of York and the Earl of Wessex. She had eight grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

The Duke of Cambridge has immediately inherited his father's dukedom. He and his wife will now be known as the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall.



KEVIN BRUCE: EDDIE MULHOLLAND FOR THE TELEGRAPH: BBC

there, things would somehow be all right

somewhat be alright. I'm so glad Her Majesty made it to her platinum Jubilee earlier this year and the British people got the chance to show her, for one last time, how much she was adored. That great, beaming throng which surged down The Mall towards the palace, surfing a wave of joy, and the millions of us watching at home, were united in wanting to thank the Queen, to celebrate everything she means – everything she *meant* to us. Oh Lord, that past tense is going to take some getting used to.

What sweeter memory could there be than the snowy, venerable and

deliciously playful monarch taking tea with Paddington Bear, producing a triumphant marmalade sandwich from her handbag? It was a shock to realise what a good actress she was, but it shouldn't have been.

She had been playing a hugely difficult part since 1953.

"The crown is an idea," she once said, "not a person."

Quite right, ma'am, but history has thrown up many unworthy custodians of that idea. Elizabeth II, in an act of self-abnegation almost unimaginable to the modern mind, embodied it to perfection.

'A great oak has fallen and the baffled eye struggles to adjust to the new landscape'

Who summed up her remarkable reign best? Philip Larkin came close when he was asked to produce a poem for the Silver Jubilee:

"In times when nothing stood

But worsened or grew strange

There was one constant good

She did not change"

People will feel so strange today, discombobulated, tearful (I am crying as I write; can't help it), maybe a bit scared. A great oak has fallen and the baffled eye struggles to adjust to the new landscape.

(Even hearing an ashen Huw Edwards say the word "king" was a

shock. Not yet, please, not yet.) At such a devastating time, the country could always rely on our Queen for comforting words and reassurance. What would she have said to help us bear her loss?

I think the address she gave to the nation in 2002, after her mother died, holds a clue as to how she would wish us to react: "I hope that sadness will blend with a wider sense of thanksgiving, not just for her life, but for the times in which she lived – a century for this country and the Commonwealth not without its trials and sorrows, but also one of

'People will feel so strange today, maybe a bit scared'

extraordinary progress, full of examples of courage and service as well as fun and laughter...

"I thank you from my heart for the love you gave her during her life and the honour you now give her in death. May God bless you all."

Our Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth II, Defender of the Faith, is with her God now, his humble servant in whom He should be well pleased.

Filled with sorrow and with gratitude, we will never forget her. How very lucky we were in our Queen. One constant good.

Ad maiorem Dei gloriam.

Queen Elizabeth II 1926–2022

A statement from His Majesty the King at the time of the Queen's death



The death of my beloved Mother, Her Majesty the Queen, is a moment of the greatest sadness for me and all members of my family.

We mourn profoundly the passing of a cherished sovereign and a much-loved mother. I know her loss will be deeply felt throughout the country, the Realms and the Commonwealth, and by countless people around the world.

During this period of mourning and change, my family and I will be comforted and sustained by our knowledge of the respect and deep affection in which the Queen was so widely held.



‘The death of my beloved mother is a

The King releases poignant statement following the death of his mother, having been asked to go to her bedside at Balmoral

By Victoria Ward
ROYAL CORRESPONDENT

THE King last night described the death of his “beloved mother” as “a moment of the greatest sadness” for him and the Royal family.

He released a statement shortly after 7pm, half an hour after Buckingham Palace announced the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

He said: “The death of my beloved mother, Her Majesty the Queen, is a moment of the greatest sadness for me and all members of my family.”

“We mourn profoundly the passing of a cherished sovereign and a much-

loved mother. I know her loss will be deeply felt throughout the country, the Realms and the Commonwealth, and by countless people around the world.”

He added: “During this period of mourning and change, my family and I will be comforted and sustained by our knowledge of the respect and deep affection in which the Queen was so widely held.”

The King had travelled to Balmoral from Dumfries House yesterday morning after the call came to travel to his mother’s bedside.

The Queen’s helicopter flight, with its distinctive burgundy livery, was

made available. Photographs showed a serious-looking Prince of Wales, as he was then, wearing a light-grey suit and clutching a large briefcase as he walked from his official car to the helicopter.

Throughout the summer, amid reports of the Queen’s ongoing health issues, he had made regular visits to her bedside.

The King and his wife Camilla, the Queen Consort, remained at Balmoral last night and were due to return to London this morning.

Though he will be grieving for his mother, his public duties will begin immediately.

His first audience as monarch with Liz Truss, the Prime Minister, is expected to happen as soon as practically possible. A photographer will record the moment they first shake hands before the meeting continues in private.

The King and the Prime Minister spoke shortly after Ms Truss delivered

My family and I will be comforted by our knowledge of the respect and affection in which the Queen was so widely held

a statement to the nation about the Queen’s death.

The King is likely to receive the Earl Marshal, the Duke of Norfolk, who is in charge of the accession and the Queen’s funeral, today to approve the carefully choreographed schedule for the week.

He will also decide on the length of court mourning for members of the Royal family and royal households. It is

expected to last a month.

A televised address to the nation will

be broadcast at around 6pm.

The King’s message, recorded hours earlier, will include a tribute to the Queen and a pledge to dedicate his reign to public service.

Tomorrow, the Accession Council will meet at St James’s Palace in London to formally proclaim King Charles the nation’s new monarch.

The council is usually held within 24 hours of the death of a sovereign, before Parliament meets, and is the first official event the King will attend.

While its solemn duties have historically been undertaken behind closed doors, this time it will be televised for the first time.

The council, held in the red-carpeted Entrée Room, will be presided over by Penny Mordaunt MP, the newly appointed Lord President of the Council, and divided into two parts.

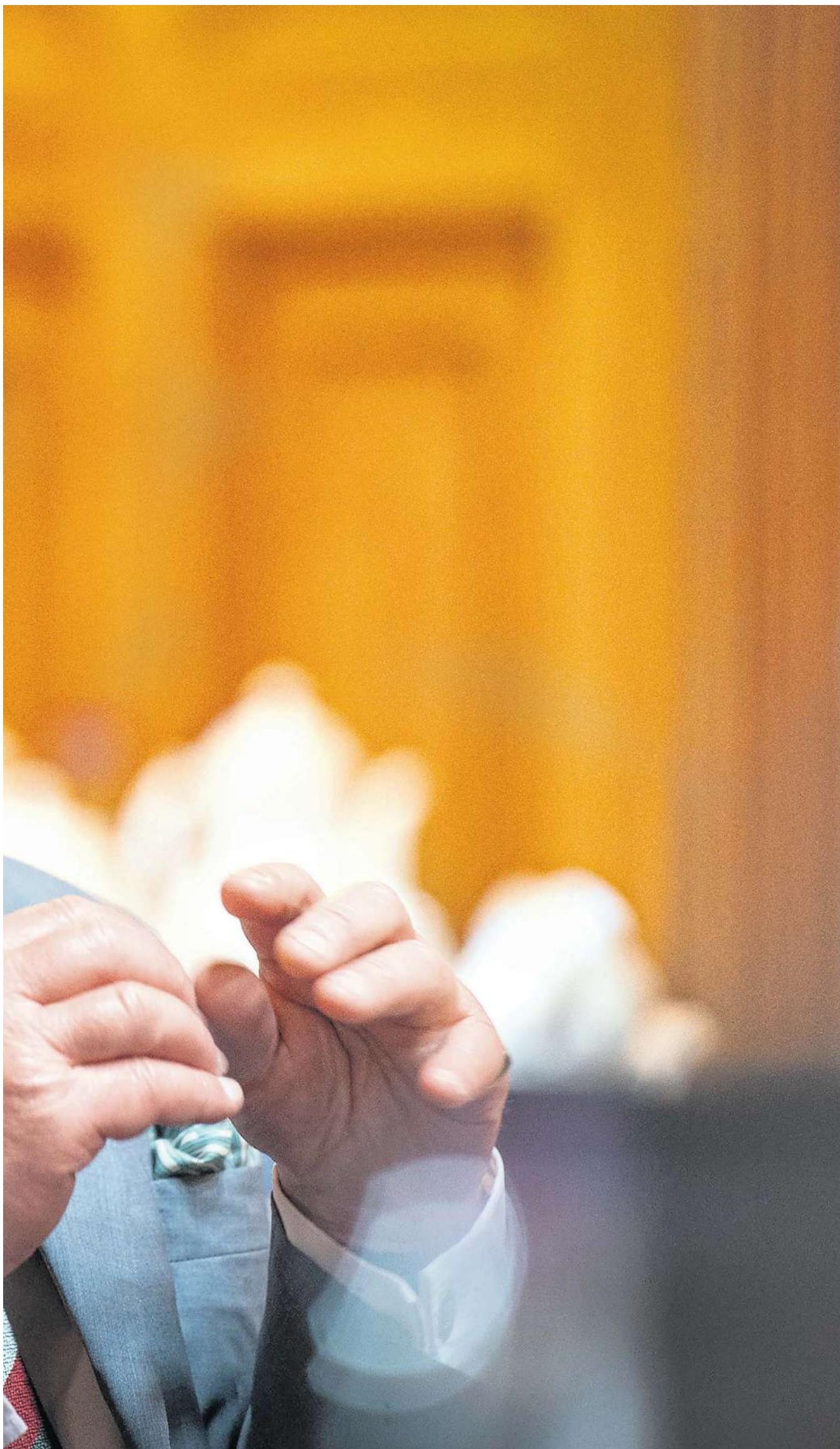
First, the Privy Council gathers without the King to proclaim the new monarch and arrange business relating to the proclamation.

Then Charles holds his first Privy Council, accompanied by the Queen Consort and Prince William, now Duke of Cornwall and Cambridge, who are both Privy Counsellors.

He will make his personal declaration and oath.

He will also hold an audience with the Prime Minister and the Cabinet and meet leaders of the opposition parties, the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Dean of Westminster.

The Prince of Wales pictured at a function on Wednesday night. As King, his first audience upon his return to London today from Scotland will be with the Prime Minister, Liz Truss. He will then make a televised address to the nation at 6pm which will include his pledge to public service



United in grief, brothers put their differences aside

Camilla Tominey

ASSOCIATE EDITOR



The Prince of Wales arrived at Balmoral by helicopter from Dumfries House at around noon, closely followed by the Princess Royal, who travelled by car from nearby Blairgowrie, where she had been carrying out an engagement for the Riding for the Disabled Association, of which she is president.

The Duchess of Cambridge, 40, remained at the couple's new home, Adelade Cottage, in Windsor to collect Prince George, nine, Princess Charlotte, seven and four-year-old Prince Louis after their first day at their new school, Lambrook Prep in Berkshire.

Despite staying just a stone's throw from Adelade Cottage at Frogmore Cottage, their Windsor home, the Sussexes were said to have "no plans" to see William and Kate this week.

Sources have previously told *The Daily Telegraph* that William and Kate believe Prince Harry and Meghan "crossed a line" with their comments on Oprah - and are not just waiting for an apology from the couple but "an acknowledgement of the hurt it caused".

News of Prince Harry's forthcoming autobiography has also caused mounting alarm - not least as it is thought the Palace will not have advanced sight of the book before it is published in the coming months.

The manuscript for the "definitive account" of the Duke's "experiences, adventures, losses, and life lessons" has reportedly been completed and signed off by lawyers after being submitted by its ghostwriter, JR Moehringer, earlier this summer.

The Duke's book was due to hit bookshelves in the autumn but has been delayed until later this year,

The Sussexes were said to have 'no plans' to see William and Kate this week

landing in time for the Thanksgiving and Christmas gift market.

Whether the publication will still go ahead as scheduled remains to be seen.

Prince Harry, 37, who will donate the proceeds to charity, said in a statement that the book would be "a firsthand account of my life that's accurate and wholly truthful". He added: "I've worn many hats over the years, both literally and figuratively, and my hope is that in telling my story - the highs and lows, the mistakes, the lessons learned - I can help show that no matter where we come from, we have more in common than we think."

Relations between the royal brothers reached rock bottom following the Oprah interview, in which Meghan accused the Duchess of Cambridge of making her cry during a bridesmaids' dress fitting, and Prince Harry claimed his father and brother felt "trapped" in the monarchy.

Although Prince William and Prince Harry were reunited a month later for the Duke of Edinburgh's funeral - and again in July last year for the unveiling of the statue of Diana, Princess of Wales - there was no interaction between the Cambridges and the Sussexes during Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee weekend in June.

There is a perception within the House of Windsor that Prince Harry and Meghan's revelations caused unnecessary upset to the Queen when the Duke of Edinburgh was ill and a general suspicion around the couple's attempts to maintain a relationship with her but not the rest of the family.

Despite all that has been said and done since the Sussexes stepped down from public duties in March 2020, the Queen always insisted - both publicly and privately - that Prince Harry and Meghan "remain much loved members of the family".

Nothing would have made her happier than to see her warring grandsons finally putting their differences aside.

The Duke of Sussex yesterday raced to Balmoral to be at his beloved grandmother's bedside, but arrived more than an hour after Buckingham Palace announced that the Queen had died, aged 96.

Prince Harry flew to Scotland separately from the rest of the Royal family and without his wife, Meghan, despite sources close to the couple saying they both planned to make the journey to Royal Deeside earlier in the day.

As news broke of the 96-year-old monarch's deteriorating health, it was announced at around 2pm that the Sussexes would travel together to Her Majesty's home in the Scottish Highlands.

But at the last minute it emerged that the Duchess of Sussex would not be accompanying her husband.

He finally arrived at Balmoral Castle just before 8pm - 90 minutes after the statement dropped at 6.30pm.

The last-minute decision for Meghan not to accompany Prince Harry follows ongoing tensions between the Sussexes and the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, who are now the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall, after they gave an interview to US chat show host Oprah Winfrey in March last year accusing an unnamed member of the Royal family of making a racist remark about their son, Archie, three.

It was only 10 days ago that Meghan, 41, once again hit the headlines over her relationship with her in-laws after she gave a 6,500-word interview to *The Cut* magazine, an offshoot of *New York* magazine in which she claimed that "just by existing" she and Prince Harry "were upsetting the dynamic of the hierarchy" as well as suggesting her husband had "lost" his father in the "Megxit" process.

She also spoke of her relief at being "able to tell [my] own story" before issuing what some interpreted as a message to the Royal family, warning she is free to "say anything", and saying it is taking "a lot of effort" to forgive them and her estranged family.

Revealing she was "still healing" from her experiences, she said: "I've really made an active effort, especially knowing that I can say anything. I've never had to sign anything that restricts me from talking. I can talk about my whole experience and make a choice not to."

The comments were greeted with a combination of anger and dismay behind Palace gates, where aides were already growing increasingly concerned about Prince Harry's forthcoming autobiography, due to be published by Penguin in the coming months.

The Sussexes, who arrived in the UK from the US on Saturday for two engagements here and one in Germany, had initially declined an offer to see the Queen in Scotland "for security reasons", amid a continuing row over their police protection.

But after Buckingham Palace announced that Her Majesty was under medical supervision following doctors' concerns, a source close to the couple confirmed at around 2pm that they would be travelling up to Scotland to be at her bedside.

They later said the Sussexes would be making the journey separately to the rest of the family, but that plans had been coordinated with the other Royal Households. But then at 4.40pm, the source clarified the Duchess would not, in fact, be "travelling today".

The decision came after Prince William, 40, landed at Aberdeen airport in one of the Dassault Falcon 900LX jets that convened Boris Johnson and Liz Truss to Balmoral on Tuesday for the prime ministerial handover. He was accompanied by the Duke of York and the Earl and Countess of Wessex.

JANE BARLOW/PA

moment of the greatest sadness for me'

In the following days, the King will embark on a whistlestop tour of the UK, visiting locations in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, a mini-tour known as Operation Spring Tide.

He will hear motions of condolence as he meets the public and shares in their mourning for his mother.

In Edinburgh, he is likely to inspect the guard at the Palace of Holyrood and may drive to St Giles Cathedral for a service of remembrance and prayers.

He will also meet First Minister Nicola Sturgeon at Holyrood House.

In Northern Ireland, he will travel to Hillsborough Castle and meet community leaders. In Wales, there is likely to be a service at Llandaff Cathedral and an audience with First Minister Mark Drakeford at Cardiff Castle.

Later in the week, he will meet senior defence staff, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, governors-general and prime ministers of the Commonwealth realms.

Regnal name The legacy behind Charles III

The new King has officially chosen the regnal name of Charles III. It means he takes a name that carries with it difficult historical baggage. Indeed, the King is believed to have considered choosing the name George VII, after his grandfather, in part because of the contentious legacies of Charles I and II. Charles I, who reigned from 1625 to 1649, is one of Britain's most notorious monarchs, often seen as an authoritarian leader intent on undermining Parliament. Yet there is little escaping the fact that his reign triggered the English Civil War and ended in his trial for treason and beheading. Charles II, who would be overthrown in 1688. The ultimate sovereignty of Parliament was then assured once and for all.

Daniel Capurro

Commonwealth and pursued political and religious tolerance. He fell out with Parliament, dissolving it in 1681 and ruled without it until his death four years later. His son, James II, would be overthrown in 1688.

The King's title, King Charles III, was a personal choice. He opted to use his Christian name, just like his late beloved mother Queen Elizabeth II.

The Queen's lying in state is expected to begin in Westminster Hall on Wednesday following a ceremonial procession through London. It will last four full days and be open for almost 24 hours a day.

The King and his three siblings, the Princess Royal, the Duke of York and the Earl of Wessex are all expected to take their turn for a moving evening vigil.

The day before the Queen's funeral, which is likely to be Monday, September 19, the King will host a reception for heads of state.

On the day of the funeral, the Queen's coffin will be taken from Westminster Hall to Westminster Abbey, and the King will lead members of the Royal family walking behind it.

The King's title, King Charles III, was a personal choice.

All change Prince William to oversee the estate of the Duchy of Cornwall

Upon the Queen's death, the Duke of Cambridge became the Duke of Cornwall and Cambridge. As Charles's eldest son, he has inherited the dukedom, and will oversee the estate of the Duchy of Cornwall. His wife will be known as the Duchess of Cornwall and Cambridge. They will at some stage be known as the Prince and Princess of Wales, but this is not automatic. Prince William needs to be created so by his father - an event expected to happen in the near future. As the 25th Duke of Cornwall, William is entitled to the multimillion-pound annual net surplus from the Duchy of Cornwall landed estate. The income will cover the cost of both his public and private life, and that of his family. He has also inherited the Scottish titles the Duke of Rothesay, Earl of Carrick, Baron of Renfrew, Lord of the Isles and Prince and Great Steward of Scotland. The new Duchess of Cornwall and Cambridge will one day be known as the Princess of Wales, the first person to use the title since her late mother-in-law Diana, Princess of Wales. While Camilla, now Queen Consort, officially held the title, she did not use it out of respect for public sentiment.

Prince George, Princess Charlotte and Prince Louis are now the Princes and Princesses of Cornwall and Cambridge. They will eventually become "of Wales". The Duke and Duchess of Sussex's son Archie Mountbatten-Windsor is now technically a prince. Similarly, Lilibet Mountbatten-Windsor is now a princess, and would be HRH Princess Lilibet of Sussex if she chose to use a title.

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Queen Elizabeth II 1926–2022



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She was rock that Britain was built on,

On the steps of Downing Street, Liz Truss issues moving tribute to Her Majesty and calls on country to rally around the King

By Robert Mendick CHIEF REPORTER

LIZ TRUSS last night praised Queen Elizabeth II as the "rock on which modern Britain was built", just 48 hours after Her Majesty had appointed her as her 15th prime minister.

Standing for a second time in two days on the steps of Downing Street, Ms Truss again addressed the nation, this time to hail the monarch as the "very spirit of Great Britain".

She spoke of the nation's devastating loss, and said the death was "a huge shock to the nation and to the world".

In a moving tribute, she said: "Queen Elizabeth II was the rock on which modern Britain was built. Our country

has grown and flourished under her reign. Britain is the great country it is today because of her."

The Prime Minister praised her "dignity and grace" and said that "in return she was loved and admired by the people in the United Kingdom and all around the world".

Queen Elizabeth II "leaves a great legacy", said Ms Truss, but she stressed that the monarchy would continue, and urged the nation to rally around King Charles III.

"With the King's family, we mourn the loss of his mother," said Ms Truss. "And as we mourn, we must come together as a people to support him. To help him bear the awesome responsibility that he now carries for us all. We offer him our loyalty and devotion just as his mother devoted so much to so many for so long."

"And with the passing of the second Elizabethan age, we usher in a new era in the magnificent history of our great country – exactly as Her Majesty would have wished – by saying the words ... God save the King."

The House of Commons will sit at noon today for MPs to pay tribute to the Queen in a session due to last until 10pm. There will also be a rare Saturday sitting, where senior MPs will take the oath to King Charles III from 2pm, with tributes continuing again until 10pm.

Yesterday marked a dramatic, historic day in Westminster. It had begun with Ms Truss unveiling plans to tackle the energy crisis gripping the nation.

But as she sat down, having made her much anticipated statement on a household bailout and a promise to end the UK's "short-termist" approach to

'Our country has grown and flourished under her reign. Britain is the great country it is today because of her'

energy, the Royal household was informing Downing Street that Her Majesty was gravely ill in Balmoral.

At noon, the national focus had been on Ms Truss's energy policy; by early afternoon the world's attention had turned to events in Scotland.

The first inkling of the gravity of the situation came during the Westminster debate.

Just as Sir Keir Starmer, leader of the Labour Party, was calling for an alternative windfall tax on the big oil and gas companies, across the chamber floor Nadhim Zahawi, the newly installed Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, strode into the Commons, with a note bearing dire news.

Mr Zahawi squeezed between the Conservative front bench and the despatch box and took up a seat beside Ms Truss, forcing Kwasi Kwarteng, her Chancellor, to shuffle aside.

The note's precise contents are unclear but it contained the saddest of news. Her Majesty The Queen, aged 96 and after 70 years on the throne, had become seriously ill while in residence in Balmoral.

Only on Tuesday, the Queen had

'With the King's family, we mourn the loss of his mother. And as we mourn, we must come together as a people to support him'



She let us all know every inch of Union was precious

Alan Cochrane



Through decency and deep affection, Her Majesty nullified enmity of those who would break us apart

Even in the manner of her going she was the personification of unity and Union. Throughout her 70-year reign perhaps her biggest success has been the maintenance, in spite of their many disputes, of the unity of the English and Scots on both a personal level and, constitutionally, in their 300-year Union in Great Britain.

That she died in the house and the country that she loved and which she so clearly regarded as home is tremendously sad. But her affection for Scotland and its people has not been lost on a disputatious people who are not easily hoodwinked. And that Scotland remains part of her realm, as a result, is due largely to her often unseen efforts and genuine interest in those she so assiduously served.

Of course it was unfortunate that her progressive ill health prevented her from appointing her new prime minister in Buckingham Palace, as is the tradition.

But by having both the outgoing and incoming premiers make the 1,000-mile round trip to Balmoral Castle cemented Scotland's place at the heart of the United Kingdom.

It may be difficult to record that her dying at Balmoral in Scotland further highlighted that ... it's a fact, nevertheless.

She did it in large measure by exuding a calmness, for which the word "regal" was the most appropriate description, and a quiet determination to let everyone know that every inch of the Union over which she reigned was precious to her.

The result has been the defusing of much of the enmity that has sometimes surfaced by the simple tactic of displaying her affection for all her subjects. Most suffered no embarrassment by the term; instead, for the majority, there was only pride in the fact that she was their sovereign.

In the case of the Scots and Scotland, Queen Elizabeth – and always remember that she was the "First" in that country, not the "Second" – demonstrated an affinity for the people and the nation that couldn't but be noticed or fail to impress even the hardest-nosed independence-loving republican – of which there are more than a few.

It would be a gross exaggeration to claim that she disarmed them totally.

But, from a personal point of view, I am often astonished at how, largely by a fabulous cocktail of decency and genuine concern for their problems, she has managed to keep the loyalty of her northern kingdom.

I'm certain I can remember details of the street party we had on the day of the Coronation, June 2, 1953. I was four years old, and in my memory bank there are images of street-long tables between the tenements in my hometown, and plates and plates of white-bread sandwiches. I remember, too, later that day, sleeping and waking up on a coach as it carried my brother, me and all the neighbourhood adults on a tour of every local hostelry in the immediate vicinity of Dundee, my home town.

However, while it is marvellous that Queen Elizabeth lived so long, what I find even more astonishing is that, after a lifetime of reporting British and Scottish politics, I can't quite believe

that her domain has remained intact 70 years after she ascended the throne. I wouldn't have bet a whole lot on that being the case.

Rampant nationalism-cum-republicanism has reared its head in Scotland on several occasions during her reign – so much so that it always looked an even bet that the strain would grow so dominant that Britain would be broken up. And it would have been, had it not been for this lady.

A combination of her fantastic adherence to the 'keep calm and carry on' attitude of that marvellous wartime generation, which she was an exemplar, plus a determination not to treat the nationalist leaders any differently from other politicians, saw her nullify much of the noise off from that direction.

And it was her beloved Balmoral Castle that was at the heart of her effort.

What was incredible was the way she dealt with the leaders of the SNP, the majority of whose members, it should be remembered, oppose the monarchy.

Instead of shunning them, she did the opposite. She treated them in exactly the same as she's done with all the 15 prime ministers she's dealt with over her seven decades on the throne.

Lest anyone forget, the main aim of Alex Salmond and Nicola Sturgeon is the break-up of her United Kingdom and also to convene a referendum on whether she or her successors should remain head of state for Scotland.

The nationalist leaders were, like UK leaders, made privy councillors – the monarch's closest advisers; they regularly met Her Majesty and briefed

'She demonstrated an affinity for the nation that couldn't but be noticed by the hardest-nosed republican'

her on their programmes for government; they, and their spouses, were invited to spend time at Balmoral – usually staying a day and a night; and were always invited to meet and brief Her Majesty when she stayed at her official Scottish Royal residence, The Palace of Holyroodhouse, in Edinburgh.

One courtier who witnessed Sturgeon being sworn in as a privy councillor was quoted in Robert Hardman's book, *Queen*, as saying it was a "quintessentially British" occasion, adding: "Every possible courtesy was extended to her by everyone, including the Queen."

"You'd never have known that this was a person who wants to rip up the whole constitution."

"Nicola Sturgeon was equally respectful and observed all the courtesies in return."

Another senior source, who has watched Her Majesty in action with the nationalist leaders, said: "She hasn't treated them any differently to any of the other political leaders she's dealt with. She greets them politely and treats them very warmly."

"She charms people by being polite." Balmoral was also at the centre of a royal masterstroke. With only days to go before the 2014 independence referendum she told a group of women outside Crathie Kirk, near the castle, that she hoped everyone would think carefully before voting on such an important issue.

Once her words were reported in the media her opposition to independence was clear and had an influence on the nationalists' defeat.

Just as it has been in the past few days as well as, sadly, with her death, Queen Elizabeth's favourite home on Royal Deeside was central to the Union.

says PM who kissed hands two days ago

been photographed shaking Ms Truss's hand. She looked frail but she was standing and there was a broad grin on her face.

For such a major Commons debate to be interrupted, clearly suggested to MPs in the Chamber that something was seriously wrong. At that moment they will not have known what the issue was. They were soon to find out.

Within five minutes, Jacob Rees-Mogg, the Business Secretary, whose remit includes energy, unexpectedly stood up from the front bench and dashed out of the chamber.

At the same time and while Sir Keir was still speaking, parliamentary television showed Angela Rayner, the deputy leader of the Labour Party, also receiving a note, the same neatly folded square containing the same upsetting news. Ms Rayner began typing into her phone.

By then, in the comingings and goings of a debate – where clearly now MPs and

journalists were aware of a major event unfolding – Mr Zahawi rose again this time to brief Sir Lindsay Hoyle, the Commons Speaker.

A minute later and Ms Rayner crept behind Sir Keir – who was still on his feet – to the Speaker's chair for a further discussion before finally a note was passed to him, too.

Then at 12.30pm, Buckingham Palace released a statement, circulated to the Royal press pack and simultaneously published on its website. It was a rare – and all too worrying – update on the Queen's health.

Normally a private matter, Buckingham Palace almost never gives details of the monarch's state of health. Yesterday was different and its meaning would become increasingly clear.

The announcement – headlined "A statement from Buckingham Palace" – was short and simple, contained in just two paragraphs. "Following further evaluation this morning, the Queen's

Top, Nadhim Zahawi interrupts Liz Truss, the Prime Minister, as she listens to Sir Keir Starmer's response to her energy package, telling her of the situation regarding Her Majesty. Above, Angela Rayner receives a similar note as Sir Keir speaks. Left, Ms Truss later makes a statement outside 10 Downing Street

doctors are concerned for Her Majesty's health and have recommended she remain under medical supervision.

"The Queen remains comfortable and at Balmoral."

By now the rumour mill was going into overdrive. The statement had said little to suggest just how seriously ill the Queen may, or may not, be but in political circles the gravest of worries were being expressed in and around Downing Street. MPs' aides were sent out to purchase or acquire black ties.

On BBC One viewers were nine minutes into *Bargain Hunt*, the daytime TV staple, when the programme was abruptly halted and the public broadcaster switched to the BBC newsroom.

"We have had news from Buckingham Palace that the Queen is under medical supervision at Balmoral," said the newsreader, adding that "immediate family members" had been informed.

Channel 4 also cut its programming

for a special news programme. The BBC suspended all regular programming and Huw Edwards, its chief presenter, was summoned to the studio, ominously dressed in dark suit, white shirt and black tie, in line with the BBC's dress code for when a member of the Royal family dies.

Back in the Commons, the Speaker made an official statement, interrupting the SNP's leader there to do so.

"I wish to say something about the announcement which has just been made about Her Majesty," said Sir Lindsay, "I know I speak on behalf of the entire House when I say that we send our best wishes to Her Majesty the Queen and that she and the Royal Family are in our thoughts and prayers at this moment. If there is anything else we will update the House accordingly."

Ms Truss was informed at 4.30pm that the Queen had died, the Prime Minister's spokesman said. The news had come through a little over four hours

after that initial, fateful note had been passed to her. The public would not be told for a further two hours, the announcement made by Buckingham Palace on its website and on a notice placed on the palace gates. Ms Truss was informed personally by Simon Case, the Cabinet Secretary.

Having delivered her statement in Downing Street, she telephoned the new King to offer her condolences. The Prime Minister was due to chair a meeting of her ministers at 9pm last night.

In her address to the nation, Ms Truss spoke of the "difficult days ahead", adding: "She has been a personal inspiration to me and to many Britons. Her devotion to duty is an example to us all."

She made reference to their meeting at Balmoral only two days before, saying that "at 96, she remained determined to carry out her duties as she appointed me as her 15th prime minister". It was Winston Churchill who was the first Prime Minister of the reign of Elizabeth II.

Queen Elizabeth II 1926–2022



Crowds came out and stood in the drizzle, brought together by grief

As people turned up at The Mall to pay their respects, a rainbow appeared above the Victoria Memorial. Then it vanished

Mick Brown



with a jacket emblazoned with a slogan: Refuse, Resist, Revolt. A fashion statement – at a time like this. A solitary voice at the railings rang out, “God save the Queen”.

Brian, a truck driver, and his wife Cindy were visitors from Alberta, Canada. Cindy was “the ardent royalist”, she said. She has sent birthday cards to the Queen, and all the immediate members of the Royal family, “and I always got a reply. There’s just something about her that just touched my heart”.

The press photographers had gathered, kept at a distance from the palace gates by the police; the broadcasting trucks were assembled to one side. A young woman walked past

be respected.” She looked around: “It feels like a national community.”

Many said this. That just by being present, standing in the drizzle, waiting patiently, a ritual of community, togetherness, was being observed, people brought together at a troubled and fractious time for the nation, as if the passing of the Queen would somehow provide a greater solace even at a time of grief.

Sheltering under a Union flag umbrella, Digby Walker, from Ayrshire in Scotland, had gone for an interview to join as a reservist in the Scots Guards. He said: “She lived a life in a spirit of duty, integrity, service which she didn’t choose. I’m filled with great optimism for the future but it does feel like a real moment in time.”

“I think once the moment passes, when we are able to celebrate the life of the Queen and reflect on what she gave to this country, I think it can be used for this country as a springboard to reset in terms of the values and service she embodied, and for the whole country to reflect on what it means to serve.” The Potts family had



A life long-lived
People and places

15

Prime ministers in office
since the start of her reign

14

US presidents who came
and went throughout
her reign

25

Age when she became
Queen, on Feb 6 1952

70

Years on the throne

599

Charities, organisations and
military regiments of which
the Queen was patron

50,000

People hosted in an average
year at banquets, lunches,
dinners, receptions and
garden parties at
Buckingham Palace

404,500

Honours conferred by the
time of her Diamond Jubilee

1.5m

Approximate number of
people who have attended a
garden party at Buckingham
Palace or the Palace of
Holyroodhouse since 1952

261

Official overseas visits
undertaken, including 100
state visits to 116 different
countries

300,000

The estimated number of
congratulatory messages
sent to people celebrating
their 100th birthday

VICTORIA JONES/PA, HEATHCLIFF O'MALLEY FOR THE TELEGRAPH, NEIL HALL/PA-EFE/SHUTTERSTOCK, HENRY NICHOLS/REUTERS



come up from Guildford to visit the Royal Collection and found it closed, and wondered why that might be the case. Now they wore an expression of grave concern.

"She's been on the throne for as long as I've been alive," said Mr Potts, measuring his life-span against hers.

"She is the glue that holds the nation," said his teenage son. Looking at the pictures of Her Majesty with Liz Truss taken only the day before yesterday, he said he had been struck by how grandmotherly she looked. "She is the grandmother of the nation," he said.

The rain had become torrential now, as if the sky itself was crying. Huddling under an umbrella were Ian Crane, an electrician, and his wife Debbie. They were visitors from Washington State, America, and had been having afternoon tea at their hotel when the newsflash came.

Ian was born in England but emigrated to America in 1972. He had always been a royalist: "Still am." She came to the throne in the year he was born, and he still keeps the small

commemorative mug that was given to all the children, "front and centre in our cabinet".

"Everyone in America loves the Queen," said Debbie, "and now what's going on with the Royal family and Meghan and everything?" She gave a deep, sorrowful sigh.

There was supposed to be an announcement at 4pm, somebody said. No, it was postponed to five, no, six. The rumours began to spread, she died in her sleep, no, this morning? "How will we know?" somebody with an American accent asked.

And then the news came, rippling through the crowd.

"Is that... is that the flag being lowered?" said one man near the front, and all heads turned upwards, away from the phone screens that had been constantly refreshing, searching for news.

As the flag got to halfway, there was a sudden joint pinging of phones all going off at once.

A round of applause sprang up out of nowhere, and suddenly a crowd of people waiting near the statue facing

Crowds gather, bunches of flowers are laid and tears shed outside Buckingham Palace (top, above right and above) and Windsor Castle (above left and above far left) yesterday evening after the death of the Queen

the Palace started singing the national anthem. "God save the Queen!" they shouted.

A young woman stood alone, sobbing. A man was on the phone, saying to his partner: "Just get down here, quick!"

All afternoon the crowds had trickled in, but now the numbers broke like a dam. Cars drove slowly down The Mall, dodging the throngs of people drawn, like pilgrims, to the Palace. They climbed on to barriers, up steps and on top of the statue: anything to get the best view.

Annette German, a retired teacher from south London, had attended the Coronation. "I share a birthday with the Queen and I've listened to the national anthem every birthday. I'm from a Left-wing family but massively in favour, the Queen could not have better dedicated her life to her country," she said.

John Loughrey, 67, from Wandsworth, south-west London, stood weeping. "I met the Queen twice. I gave flowers to her. I can't believe it," he said. "She went downhill

after the Duke of Edinburgh died. They were like two swans. God save the Queen."

Mr Loughrey said he would be camping near the Palace for 10 days as a mark of respect before lighting a candle for her at Westminster Abbey.

At royal residences across the country, crowds had gathered throughout the afternoon to await news, and now to pay tribute. At Balmoral, police moved the crowds further from the castle gates, and across the surging River Dee, anticipating an influx of more mourners.

Keith and Becky Guyer, from Massachusetts, US, were in Scotland on holiday and changed their plans after hearing of the concerns for Her Majesty's health. News of her death came just as they arrived at Balmoral.

"It just feels heavy here, that's the best way to describe it," Mr Guyer, a 49-year-old carpenter, said. "I worry after this, for the world. The Queen always represented something hopeful, a grounding in the past and balance for the future. There is

She lived a life in a spirit of duty, integrity, service which she didn't choose. It does feel like a real moment in time'

universal respect for her in America. I would think there will be a national day of mourning in the US."

At Windsor, as police cordoned off the area closest to the castle entrance, mourners were redirected around side streets to control the gathering crowd. A small boy, less than four years old, was one of the first to leave a floral tribute, bemused by the cameras clicking behind him. One boy among a group of teenagers walking past the tributes said: "I just want to cry, really."

A sense of community reigned as young and old, pausing before the floral tributes, paid their respects.

Outside Buckingham Palace, an hour before the news came, the rain had abated, and suddenly there was a double-rainbow arching above the Victoria Memorial. Everybody's heads turned. A woman I was talking to said: "My daughter will know what that means." Her daughter texted back straight away. "A double rainbow is said to denote spiritual transformation. Signifying new beginnings and good changes." Then the clouds gathered once more and the rainbow was gone.

Queen Elizabeth II 1926–2022

‘We grieve for Elizabeth the Great ...’

This is our country’s saddest day. In the hearts of every one of us there is an ache at the passing of our Queen, a deep and personal sense of loss – far more intense, perhaps, than we expected. In these first grim moments since the news, I know that millions and millions of people have been pausing whatever they have been doing, to think about Queen Elizabeth, about the bright and shining light that has finally gone out. She seemed so timeless and so wonderful that I am afraid we had come to believe, like children, that she would just go on and on.

Wave after wave of grief is rolling across the world, from Balmoral – where our thoughts are with all the Royal family – and breaking far beyond this country and throughout that great Commonwealth of nations that she so cherished and which cherished her in return. As is so natural with human beings, it is only when we face the reality of our loss that we truly understand what has gone. It is only really now that we grasp how much she meant for us, how much she did for us, how much she loved us. As we think of the void she leaves, we understand the vital role she played, selflessly and calmly embodying the continuity and unity of our country. This is our country’s saddest day because she had a unique and simple power to make us happy. That is why we loved her. That is why we grieve for Elizabeth the Great, the longest-serving and in many ways the finest monarch in our history

Boris Johnson

From the moment I waved my little flag as I watched her, as a child, be driven through the streets of Durham, to the honour of being her prime minister, to my last meeting with her and then lunching with her at Windsor Castle for the Garter ceremony just a few months ago, she has been an enduring presence of strength and stability. At that lunch, we sat next to each other and she was on sparkling form as we talked – warm, gracious, humorous and spirited

Sir Tony Blair

As we mourn, we should be grateful that we were blessed with such an example of duty and leadership for so very many years

Sir John Major

She wore her lofty titles with a light touch. Michelle and I were lucky enough to come to know Her Majesty, and she meant a great deal to us. Back when we were just beginning to navigate life as president and first lady, she welcomed us with open arms and extraordinary generosity. Time and again, we were struck by her warmth, the way she put people at ease, and how she brought her humour and charm to moments of great pomp and circumstance

Barack Obama

Queen Elizabeth II was a stateswoman of unmatched dignity and constancy who deepened the bedrock alliance between the UK and the US. She helped make our relationship special. She was the first British monarch to whom people all around the world could feel a personal and immediate connection. She, in turn, dedicated her whole life to their service

Joe Biden

It was, each week, a privilege to have the ability to sit down, in private, with Queen Elizabeth and to be able to call on her sage advice and wise counsel

David Cameron

What a grand, beautiful lady she was... May she reign forever in our hearts, and may God hold her and Prince Philip in abiding care

Donald Trump



The Queen waits in the Drawing Room before receiving Liz Truss for an audience at Balmoral, where she invited the new leader of the Conservative Party to become Prime Minister

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II embodied the British nation's continuity and unity for over 70 years. I remember her as a friend of France, a kind-hearted queen who has left a lasting impression on her country and her century

Emmanuel Macron

Her Majesty's commitment to German-British reconciliation after the horrors of World War II will remain unforgotten. She will be missed

Olaf Scholz

the finest monarch in our history'

Our prayer is that she is now received into the merciful presence of God, there to be reunited with her beloved Prince Philip. This is the promise of our faith, and our deep consolation. Queen Elizabeth II will remain, always, a shining light in our history. May she now rest in peace. We pray for His Majesty the King, as he assumes his new office even as he mourns his mother. God save the King

Cardinal Vincent Nichols

It is with deep sadness that we learned of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. On behalf of the Ukrainian people, we extend sincere condolences to the Royal family, the entire United Kingdom and the Commonwealth over this irreparable loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you

Volodymyr Zelensky

Queen Elizabeth II was the rock on which modern Britain was built. Our country has grown and flourished under her reign. Britain is the great country it is today because of her. We are now a modern, thriving, dynamic nation. Through thick and thin, Queen Elizabeth II provided us with the stability and the strength that we needed. She was the very spirit of Great Britain – and that spirit will endure.

In the difficult days ahead, we will come together with our friends ... across the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth and the world ... to celebrate her extraordinary lifetime of service. It is a day of great loss, but Queen Elizabeth II leaves a great legacy. Today the Crown passes – as it is has done for more than a thousand years – to our new monarch, our new head of state: His Majesty King Charles III. With the King's family, we mourn the loss of his mother. And as we mourn, we must come together as a people to support him. And with the passing of the second Elizabethan age, we usher in a new era in the magnificent history of our great country – exactly as Her Majesty would have wished – by saying the words ... God save the King

Liz Truss

As deep as our grief runs, even deeper is our gratitude for Her Late Majesty's extraordinary dedication to the United Kingdom, her realms and the Commonwealth. The late Queen leaves behind a truly extraordinary legacy: one that is found in almost every corner of our national life, as well as the lives of so many nations around the world, and especially in the Commonwealth

Justin Welby

I willingly join all who mourn her loss in praying for the late Queen's eternal rest, and in paying tribute to her life of unstinting service to the good of the Nation and the Commonwealth. I invoke an abundance of divine blessings as a pledge of comfort and strength in the Lord

Pope Francis

From her famous trip to Australia, the only reigning sovereign ever to visit, it was clear she held a special place in her heart for Australia

Anthony Albanese

Her Majesty will be remembered as a stalwart of our times. She provided inspiring leadership to her nation and people. She personified dignity and decency in public life. My thoughts are with her family and people of UK in this sad hour. I had memorable meetings with Her Majesty during my UK visits. I will never forget her warmth and kindness

Narendra Modi

To her grieving family and people, the Irish government joins with you in mourning the loss of an exceptional woman who led by quiet and dignified example and who touched so many lives over her exceptionally long reign. Our world is a poorer place for her passing but a far richer and better place as a result of her long life and enduring contribution

Micheal Martin

She symbolised the best of the United Kingdom. She meant so much to so many and, on a personal note, has been an inspiration throughout my life

Ursula von der Leyen



JANE BARLOW/PA

Queen Elizabeth II 1926–2022



UK will be in mourning until her state funeral at Westminster Abbey

Public can pay their respects as monarch lies in state before service and being laid to rest with beloved Philip at Windsor Castle

By Gordon Rayner
and Olivia Rudgard

THE United Kingdom will remain in a period of national mourning until the Queen's state funeral, after Buckingham Palace set in motion a detailed accession plan that has been honed over a period of decades.

Over the next 10 to 12 days, the British

public, world leaders and the Royal family will come together to remember Queen Elizabeth II and give thanks for her reign in what is likely to become a global event.

Operation London Bridge, as the Queen's funeral plans are codenamed, will be combined with Operation Unicorn, the plan for a monarch dying at Balmoral, which is named after the

national animal of Scotland. The plan will cover the Queen's final journey from her favourite home to her resting place beside her beloved Prince Philip at Windsor, via Edinburgh and London, where she will lie in state so her subjects to pay their respects in person.

The date of the funeral is yet to be decided. The plans make provision for 10 days of mourning before the funeral itself, but because the Queen died at Balmoral that period could be extended.

Balmoral was the Queen's favourite home, and if she could have chosen the place of her death it would have been at the castle bought by Queen Victoria as a summer retreat. Her coffin is

The date of the funeral is yet to be decided. The plans make provision for 10 days of mourning before the funeral itself

expected to be placed in the drawing room there, where it will be covered with a Royal standard and a wreath of flowers.

It is likely to remain there for the next three days, where the Queen's children, grandchildren and other members of the Royal family have already gathered and where they will be able to spend time together in a private period of mourning.

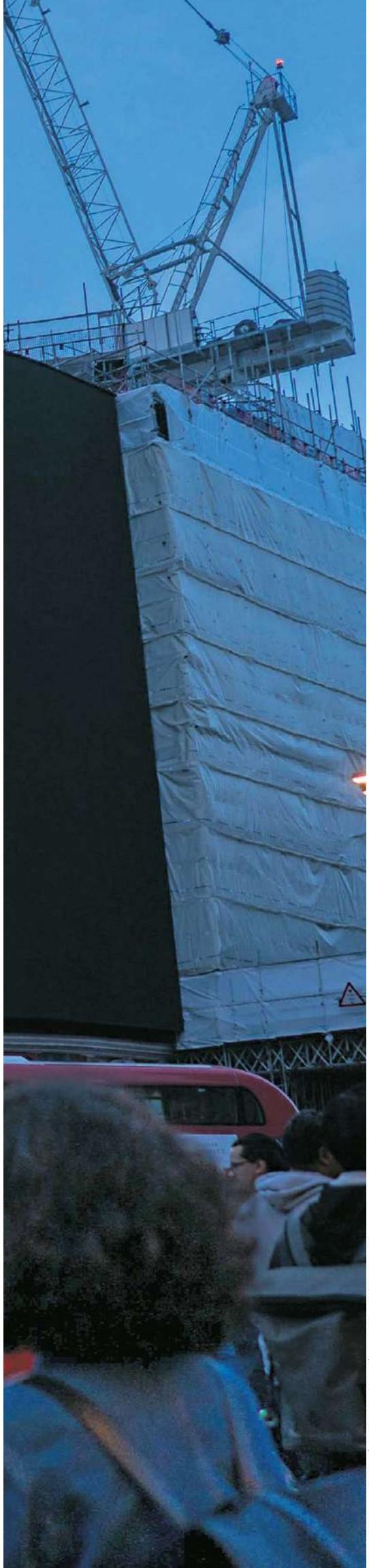
The Queen played an active role in making the preparations for her funeral, and every detail has been set down in accordance with her wishes, but everything must first be approved by the new monarch, King Charles III, before they can be confirmed and announced to the public.

The plans will be overseen by the Earl Marshal, the Duke of Norfolk, in line with tradition, and have been rehearsed regularly over the years.

Downing Street, the Ministry of Defence, the Cabinet Office, Lord Chamberlain's Office and Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport are all involved in the execution of the plans, with the Foreign Office co-ordinating incoming heads of state and foreign royal family, and the Metropolitan Police and Thames Valley Police responsible for security.

The Queen's coffin is expected to be

The service will be televised, and two minutes' silence is expected to be held



The giant billboard at Piccadilly Circus in London pays tribute to the Queen, left. A Nasdaq building in Times Square, New York, marks Her Majesty's passing, above; Tel Aviv City Hall in Israel is lit up with the Union flag, right; In Washington DC, India Rodgers, three, lays flowers outside the British Embassy, below



JEFF MOORE/GETTY IMAGES; ANDREW KELLY/REUTERS; ARIEL SCHALIT/TAAP; WIN MCNAMEE/GETTY IMAGES

taken in three days' time to the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the monarch's official Scottish residence at the end of Edinburgh's Royal Mile, where it will remain for 24 hours.

That afternoon a brief service at the city's St Giles' Cathedral will be attended by the King.

Arrangements for the coffin to move from Scotland to London are subject to change. A plan to take the coffin on an overnight train journey from Edinburgh Waverley station to London St Pancras are understood to have been replaced by a flight from the Scottish capital to London.

A hearse will then transport the coffin to Buckingham Palace, where it will remain overnight, and where members of the Royal family will say prayers.

From there it will be taken on a gun carriage to Westminster Hall in the Houses of Parliament, where it will be placed on a catafalque, where a continuous vigil will be held by the King's Body Guards, Gentlemen at Arms, the Royal Company of Archers and the Yeomen of the Guard.

The lying in state is likely to run for almost 24 hours a day, closing for a short period only for cleaning, to allow admirers from around the world to pay

their respects to the Queen. The Queen's lying in state is expected to last for a full four days, during which the public will be able to file past the coffin to pay their respects, as they did following the death of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother in 2002.

Hundreds of thousands of mourners are expected to join the queues. By next

weekend, as the funeral itself approaches, heads of state from around the world will start arriving in London ready for the state funeral at Westminster Abbey. The earliest date for the funeral is likely to be Monday, Sep 19.

On the day of the funeral, the Queen's coffin is expected to process on a gun carriage to the Abbey, pulled by naval

ratings using ropes, rather than horses. Senior members of the Royal family are expected to walk behind it, as they did for the funeral of Prince Philip and that of Diana, Princess of Wales.

The Armed Forces will line the streets and also join the procession.

The service will be televised, and a national two minutes' silence is

expected to be held. The service will be conducted by the Dean of Westminster, with a sermon from the Archbishop of Canterbury. It is expected to be one of the most-watched events in television history, representing a seismic change in the lives of Britons and the Queen's admirers around the world.

Later the same day, the Queen's coffin

What happens now? What to expect over the next 10 days

Tuesday Her Majesty's coffin is expected to be flown to London and is likely to be at rest at Buckingham Palace. A rehearsal for the procession of the coffin from the palace to the Palace of Westminster will take place.

Wednesday Queen Elizabeth II's lying in state is expected to begin at Westminster Hall, codenamed Operation Marquee. It will follow a procession through London.

The Archbishop of Canterbury will conduct a short service following the coffin's arrival. Hundreds of thousands of people are expected to file

past the coffin and pay their respects.

Senior members of the Royal family are expected to pay tributes, standing guard at some stage around the coffin.

Tomorrow The Accession Council will meet at St James's Palace to formally proclaim King Charles III the new monarch.

It will be televised for the first time. The first public proclamation of the new Sovereign will be read from the Friary Court balcony by the Garter King of Arms before

proclamations are made across the country. Union flags return to full-mast at 1pm and remain there for 24 hours before returning to half-mast.

The King will also hold audiences with the Prime Minister and the Cabinet. Public books of condolence may be placed at royal residences.

Sunday Elizabeth II's coffin is expected to be taken by road to the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh.

Proclamations will be read in the Scottish, Welsh and Northern Ireland devolved parliaments in Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast.

Monday, Sep 19 The state funeral is expected to take place at Westminster Abbey. The original plans involved Her Majesty's coffin processing on a gun carriage pulled by sailors using ropes rather than horses.

Senior members of the family are expected to follow behind – just as they did for the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales and the Duke of Edinburgh. The military will line the streets and also join the procession.

Monday A procession is expected along the Royal Mile to St Giles' Cathedral. There will be a service and a vigil by members of the Royal family.

The public may get the chance to file past Elizabeth II's coffin as it lies in state.

The House of Commons and the House of Lords are expected to come together in Westminster for a motion of condolence, which the King may attend.

After leaving England and visiting Scotland, Charles will at some stage travel to the other countries of the UK – known as Operation Spring Tide.

The Duke of Edinburgh's coffin will move from the Royal Vault to the chapel.

Monday B procession is expected to take place at St George's Chapel at Windsor for a televised committal service.

Many thousands of people are expected to line the streets for the Queen's final journey from London to Windsor.

The carriage carrying her coffin will process slowly along a circular central London route past Parliament Square, The Mall and Hyde Park Corner, to allow the public to pay their respects.

It will then be moved to a hearse for the drive to Windsor Castle.

Following the committal ceremony, there will be a private interment service with senior members of the Royal family.

The Queen's final resting place will be the tiny King George VI memorial chapel, an annex to the main chapel – where her mother and father were buried, along with the ashes of her sister, Princess Margaret.

Prince Philip's coffin will be moved from the royal vault, where it has remained since his funeral last year, to the memorial chapel itself.

There the Queen and the man who was by her side during 73 years of marriage will finally be reunited, to rest together in peace.

National mourning Strikes cancelled, Proms called off, government business cut back and sport likely to be suspended

Cultural establishments were closing their doors yesterday as the country entered a period of national mourning after the death of the Queen.

BBC Proms announced the cancellation of Prom 71 today and the Last Night of the Proms on Saturday. The National Gallery also shut its doors

and The Royal Opera House pulled its performance of *Don Giovanni*. Even the filming of the sixth season of *The Crown* was expected to stop out of respect.

Meanwhile, postal and rail strikes were cancelled and Government business has been scaled back to essentials, with a pause on policy

announcements – though measures to implement the new energy price freeze will still progress.

The sporting schedule for Friday is set to be suspended, with cancellations also expected on Saturday. Churches were being encouraged to "muffle" bells, a rite reserved for the death of the

monarch, the bishop of the diocese, or the incumbent vicar. Flags were lowered to half mast across the country. Public buildings will continue to function and the machinery of government continues. One drive that will continue is implementing the energy price freeze. Legislation

will need to be passed to take effect before the start of October.

Liz Truss, the Prime Minister, held a meeting with Cabinet ministers, police leaders and representatives of the Royal Household to discuss arrangements for the coming days.

MPS' tributes are made in

Parliament from this luncheon, into tomorrow in a special sitting.

A planned strike by Royal Mail workers today has been called off. Members of the Communication Workers Union were to continue a 48-hour walkout in a dispute over pay and conditions. The Transport Salaried Staffs

Association also called off railway strikes being prepared for this month.

England's series-deciding third Test against South Africa loses a day's play and golf at Wentworth was cancelled. Premier League and Football League bosses are yet to confirm whether they will move Saturday's games. Horse

racing, which had a close association with the Queen, was the first sport to confirm there would be no meetings at all.

The mayor of Paris announced that the lights on the Eiffel Tower would be turned off as a mark of respect.

Ben Riley-Smith, Tom Morgan, Craig Simpson and Gabriella Swerling

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There the Queen and the man who was by her side during 73 years of marriage will finally be reunited, to rest together in peace.

Queen Elizabeth II 1926–2022

Her Majesty was loved because, for more than 70 years, she did what she had promised

Queen Elizabeth II was perhaps the most faithful person ever to sit as head of state of a nation. She was faithful in deed, in word, in thought, and in prayer

Charles Moore



We listened to Lilibet speaking on the wireless. She was very good and my heart went out to her."

So wrote Alathea Fitzalan Howard in her diary for Oct 13, 1940. She was a young girl who was living close to Princess Elizabeth at Windsor during the Second World War. Alathea was describing the first broadcast the future Queen ever made. It was addressed to evacuate children in Britain and beyond.

"We know, every one of us," said the 14-year-old Princess on air, "that in the end all will be well, for God will care for us, and give us victory and peace."

Eighty years later, Queen Elizabeth II spoke to a world afflicted by Covid-19, also from Windsor Castle. She was by now the most experienced broadcaster in history.

"Better days will return," she said, "we will be with friends again." Echoing the wartime song, she promised, "We will meet again."

She was the only person in the world with the authority to say those things, in that way.

"In the end, all will be well."

She was the most down-to-earth and unsentimental person, yet she dared to make that bold claim to a stricken world. Her long, long reign proved her right.

From the age of 10, in 1936, when King Edward VIII – her uncle – abdicated without having produced an heir, the Princess knew her likely destiny. There is no evidence that she wanted it, but there is a lifetime of proof that she accepted it. From the first, she intuitively understood that the throne is something you must neither desire nor detest.

You sit on it by accident of birth, not by personal merit. Your task is to subordinate yourself to the role so carefully that the two become almost indistinguishable. You are the most eminent, most looked-after, most flattered person in the realm, and yet you must forsake almost all individual rights and freedoms, forever.

To this complicated task, Elizabeth II brought simplicity of heart and lack of vanity. In preparing for it, she drew on two examples in whom her faith never wavered, her father – the King – and her Father in heaven.

George VI was not a clever man or an outgoing one. His stammer was the outward expression of inner diffidence. He had never expected or desired the throne. His elder daughter, who was always close to him, felt for him as he took on the unwelcome responsibilities, to which was soon added the need to lead his country in war.

She saw how this heavy burden (and his constant smoking) shortened his life. But she gained confidence from the confidence he had in her.

Alathea noticed in the early Forties how "Lilibet" did not really need the company of friends, being "always happy in her own family".

By the time she became Queen, aged 26, she had already absorbed her father's example and was determined to reign in the light of it.

Because of her constitutional role, the young Elizabeth lacked executive power, so she showed this determination through public moments and ceremonies, particularly by public promises. In 1947, for her 21st birthday, she travelled with her parents and her sister, Margaret, around South Africa and the then Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) – both part of the British Empire. From Cape Town, she made her vow to "the great imperial family to which we all belong", invoking the "knightly dedication" of her ancestors coming to manhood when they said, "I serve".

As a woman, she explained, "I cannot quite do what they did", but, through broadcasting, she could do what they could not. She could make her dedication with millions listening: "I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service".

Although the life was the longest any monarchy has ever known, the vow was kept.

As he surveyed the plans for

spontaneous unity, are what the nation, and indeed the world, is showing for Elizabeth II today.

I mention the world because no head of state ever knew so many places so well for so long or reached such a universal audience. If you go to Anne Frank's house in Amsterdam, you see the picture of Princess Elizabeth, three years her senior, which she pinned to the wall of her bedroom. Anne put it there in 1944, her generation's symbol of hope under persecution. Sixty-seven years later, in Dublin, the same woman moved the people of Ireland by coming to mark reconciliation.

In between those two dates were countless examples where Queen Elizabeth II made a difference for good. If I said that President Reagan sided with Britain over the Argentinian invasion of the Falkland Islands because he was so determined not to miss his ride with Her Majesty in Windsor Great Park, I would be exaggerating, but not much.

She was the first British monarch to receive a Pope in Britain, and the only one to visit Russia, China and her own realm of Australia. In Lusaka in 1979, she held the Commonwealth together over Rhodesia. She was the particular favourite of Nelson Mandela, Barack Obama and – which shows her flexibility – Donald Trump.

By the time of her death, she was recognised, almost always favourably, by more people than the entire population of the world when she came to the throne. In a way, her globalisation of the British monarchy was more complete than that of Queen Victoria at the height of Empire.

What mattered most, however, was here at home. Queen Elizabeth II paid most formal attention to the basic elements of the British state – Parliament, the law, the Church of England, the Armed Forces, which last she dramatised so gallantly by riding side-saddle on her horse Burmese for Trooping the Colour. But the key to her reign was its even distribution of favour. Her approach resembled the description of Heaven by John Donne, the poet: she made sure there was "no noise nor silence, but one equal music".

This made a great difference to the preservation of the Union (almost the only subject on which she hinted at a political preference), but it mattered across her kingdom. She wished to be encouraging, never to be ecstatic. One day, Her Majesty was presented with a draft speech for a northern city. "I am very pleased to be in X", said the draft. She crossed out the word "very". She knew there are scores of other British cities, all equally her responsibility. She knew she must treat them all with the same restrained, lifelong courtesy.

If ever there were preferences in her treatment of others, they had to be subtly and rarely indicated. It was her general rule, for example, not to attend the funerals of her prime ministers, of whom she had 15. The only exceptions she made were for Winston Churchill and Margaret Thatcher. These were careful choices and the right ones.

In her manner of life, the Queen combined the seasons of the Edwardian era with the austerity of the wartime generation. There was the Derby and Ascot; late summer and early autumn at Balmoral, reached – until the Royal Yacht, Britannia, was decommissioned in 1997 – via a cruise through the Western Isles; Christmas at Sandringham (from which she broadcast her annual message) and weekends at Windsor which, in her late widowhood, were elongated to most weeks. There were dogs and horses, one-bar electric fires, and church every Sunday.

She could have had any luxury she wanted, but what she liked was well-organised routine. In that sense, she came to like reigning. As an adult, she knew almost nothing else. Although she would never have said so, she knew she did it well. The Duke of Edinburgh once observed that his wife was idolised in her youth and then inspired less interest in her middle age. As she grew old, he predicted, she would be deeply loved. So it proved.

Why? Because she did what she promised, for more than 70 years. She was perhaps the most faithful person ever to be placed at the head of a nation – faithful in thought, word and deed, and in daily prayer. She never asked for thanks. As a result, she received them. She ended where she began. She was the same from that broadcast in 1940 to her appointment of her last prime minister this week: she was very good and our hearts went out to her.



ANWAR HUSEIN/GETTY IMAGES

Queen Elizabeth II laughs as she walks past her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh, in his uniform and bearskin cap at Buckingham Palace in 2005



It was for her the Armed Forces risked life and limb

Richard Dannatt



It was with the greatest and most personal regret that members of the Armed Forces learnt of the news of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. With the greatest regret – albeit one shared by the nation – because our beloved and longest serving monarch had died. And the most personal regret because, for members of the Armed Forces, Queen Elizabeth II was our Commander in Chief to whom each of us, on our joining the Royal Navy, the Army or the Royal Air Force, had sworn an Oath of Allegiance. That makes it a personal loss for soldiers, sailors, airmen and women and marines. It was for her as Sovereign that we were prepared to risk life and limb – not for the Government, but for Her Majesty and the people of this country.

Some might think that such a personal relationship a rather academic or historical link, but it has real substance. Her Majesty, with the help of other members of the Royal family, took very seriously her honorary duties and formed very close associations with the country's ships and naval bases, the regiments and corps of the British Army and the stations and squadrons of the Royal Air Force. Her Majesty's willingness to serve her country in uniform during the Second World War was the starting point of the loyalty owed to her, buttressed by the oath that we all swore. Yet it was her example of leadership that inspired us all to continue in the most difficult of circumstances, whether over Suez, in the jungles of Borneo, in the South Atlantic or on the Falklands, in Northern Ireland, the Balkans, or more recently in Iraq or Afghanistan.

The motto of the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst, where all British Army officers begin their training, is "Serve to Lead". For some this takes a little understanding, but the dedication of the Queen to her duties and to her subjects was a perfect example to emulate and follow. How easy would it have been for her while on holiday at Balmoral to have asked the then Prince of Wales to represent her in bidding farewell to Boris Johnson as Prime Minister and undertake the symbolic kissing of hands with Liz Truss as she assumed the role. But the Queen did her duty to the last – she served her people throughout her life and thereby earned the right to lead them. It was sacrificial leadership of the highest quality and an inspiring example to follow.

In the midst of the sadness surrounding the death of our Sovereign, our personal highlights and memories must never fade. Images of years gone by when the Queen, mounted side-saddle on her favourite

charger, led her Foot Guards up the Mall after another Trooping the Colour blend with her appearances on the balcony of Buckingham Palace admiring the Red Arrows overhead as they flew in salute with red, white and blue trails cutting the sky. Or, indeed, images of Her Majesty reviewing the Fleet from the vantage of her much loved, but sadly missed, Royal Yacht Britannia. These memories captured in films, photographs and paintings will endure in perpetuity – as will the pride in the hearts of many a serviceman or servicewoman who has had a medal pinned on their chests by Her Majesty.

For many, meeting the Queen was a moment of tongue-tied panic, but for those fortunate enough to relish the moment, there was the realisation that she was, after all, a human being like the rest of us. She could listen, she could smile, she could ask questions and in just a moment over a handshake, she could make a memory.

We all have our personal recollections. In 2006, Her Majesty attended a parade in Belfast to mark the disbandment of the Royal Irish Regiment Home Service battalions, as the Army's campaign in Northern Ireland during The Troubles formally came to an end. She had flown to Belfast in a queen's flight aircraft, as had my wife and I in my capacity as the then Chief of the General Staff. The parade over, Her Majesty departed to the airport for the return journey. My wife and I followed in our car shortly after. Unfortunately, mid-journey I received a message saying that our aircraft had a technical fault, and we were grounded. A few minutes later a message came from Her Majesty: "If you hurry up, I will give you a lift in my aircraft." Her motorcycle escort was sent back to, indeed, "hurry" us up.

I had forgotten that I had told the Queen earlier that we had to get back to London for our daughter's 18th birthday party. We duly arrived at the airport, and on climbing into the aircraft, Her Majesty said: "You sit here, you sit there, and we will all have tea." And later, as we got off: "Please wish your daughter a very happy birthday." Such a privilege and such a memory form the bedrock of deep admiration and unswerving loyalty. Over a very long reign of 70 years, Queen Elizabeth II made memories for so many at home, among the Commonwealth and across the world. We will not see her like again.

However, the monarchy continues. It will not be the same and it will evolve around the personality of our new Sovereign. That is one of the abiding strengths of our unwritten constitution. As Her Majesty breathed her last, a new Sovereign was proclaimed. The loyalty of our servicemen and servicewomen passed in a second to our new Commander in Chief: "God save the King"! *General the Lord Dannatt GCB CBE MC DL was Chief of the General Staff 2006-2009*

Faith was worn in her heart, not on her sleeve

Stephen Cottrell



The news of Queen Elizabeth II's death has reverberated around the world. The deep sadness felt in the United Kingdom is shared across the globe, not least in the Commonwealth which meant so much to her.

Her grace and dependability – what seemed a rocklike permanence – impressed everyone.

We pray in great thanksgiving for her life and service, for the life of a nation, for all who mourn and especially her family and for our new King Charles. In times of danger, uncertainty and personal grief, Her Majesty consistently exemplified a courage and a confidence that flowed from her faith in Jesus Christ. We all need that now.

I am reminded of Christ's words to his disciples on Easter Day: "Do not be afraid... peace be with you... I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Queen Elizabeth II made no secret of the fact that the Christian faith and a disciplined life of duty and devotion were the source of her guidance and a constant solace. "For me," she said, "the life of Jesus Christ, the prince of peace, is an inspiration and an anchor in my life. A role model of reconciliation and forgiveness, he stretched out his hands in love, acceptance and healing."

It was Christ's servant leadership which shaped her sovereignty. Jesus confounded the prevailing perceptions of authority. For instance, at the Last

Supper he noted that none of his disciples was willing to perform the customary task of a servant by washing the dirt off the feet of the others. So he did it. He gave them a new commandment, that they should love one another and that by this love, people would know that they were his disciples.

He also gave them this astonishing definition of leadership: "The kings of the gentiles lord it over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather, the greatest among you must become like the youngest and the leader like one who serves."

"For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves."

On her 21st birthday in 1947, the then Princess Elizabeth was touring South Africa with her parents. She made this personal, Christian commitment that day and she lived by it throughout her reign: "I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service."

Indeed, right until the end, when she invited the new Prime Minister to form a government, she was doing her duty. She broke into her summer holiday at Balmoral to give an audience, first with Boris Johnson as the outgoing prime minister, and then with Liz Truss, the 15th premier of her reign. We will treasure the photograph published then, which showed her at the age of 96, looking frail but beaming with warmth and kindness.

Queen Elizabeth II wore her faith in her heart, not on her sleeve. It is the best place for faith. From there it can shape everything.

Stephen Cottrell is Archbishop of York



A lifetime of service to the nation

For most of us, it feels like a death in the family. Indeed, it is a death in the family. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, whose long life and reign came to a peaceful close yesterday, was the only head of state the vast majority of her subjects have known. But she was more than just a distant, matriarchal symbol of nationhood; she was our constant companion and guide, reassuringly composed even in the most turbulent of times.

The Queen was the longest-reigning monarch, having overtaken Queen Victoria's 63 years on the Throne during 2015, and, at 96, the oldest. An extraordinary constitution inherited from her mother, who lived until she was 101, allowed her to maintain good health almost until the very end, when her frailty became increasingly apparent. Her energy was remarkable, as was her selfless dedication to her country and its people. For her, monarchy was about duty and vocation, not celebrity and wealth. The institution is what mattered; and she was its stalwart custodian.

Just as during the Second World War, when Britain was blessed with a King and Queen who embodied the defiant spirit of the time, so their daughter preserved and adapted the noblest traditions of her ancestors. Her reign saw great changes, both technological and cultural. When the second Elizabethan age began, butter, meat and coal were still rationed; today, our supermarkets bulge with goods from all corners of the globe.

The Britain that witnessed her Coronation in 1953 was more deferential, more homogenous, less secular and, despite the privations of post-war recovery, far more self-confident. It was victory in that war which reinforced the nation's sense of its importance even as its status as a colonial power was diminishing. The Queen ascended to the Throne with a substantial chunk of the world still under British suzerainty; within 15 years, all that had gone.

Since then we have seen the dismantling of the British Empire, the founding of the EEC, the defeat of America in Vietnam, the Islamic revolution in Iran, the victory over Communism in the Cold War, the rise of China as a superpower, and the spread of terrorism around the globe. Above all, it has been an age of scientific revolution that has unlocked the structure of DNA, landed men on the Moon, transformed the power of computers, cloned a mammal from an adult cell, decoded the human genome and brought about the mind-boggling communications advances of the past 25 years.

Such a rapid transformation of society would be disconcerting to most people as they grow older; but when you are also head of state, adapting to this changing world is essential in order to avoid appearing aloof and out of touch. It is to the Queen's great and lasting credit that she managed this transition to modernity with such good grace and dignity.

It was particularly impressive since she was not

intended for the role she played. When she was born in 1926, her father's brother was the heir and no one could have anticipated the circumstances that resulted in his abdication 10 years later. From late 1936, when King George VI ascended to the Throne, Princess Elizabeth's life changed utterly and became a preparation for an adulthood spent in the service of the nation.

As Britain changed, so did the monarchy – again the most traditional of institutions proved surprisingly adaptable. The Queen permitted cameras into her home and went on walkabouts. She toured the world, offering personal leadership to a new, multicultural Commonwealth. The Queen visited more than 100 countries as monarch, including Canada 22 times – more than any other country in the world – and France 13 times – more than any other country in Europe.

On one trek around the globe, it was calculated that she listened to 276 speeches, gave 102 of her own and heard 508 renditions of the national anthem. She was ever-present without being partisan: a leader in the moral, rather than the political sense.

She was the most photographed person in history and must have met more people and shaken more hands than anyone else. During her reign, there were 15 prime ministers, with the last, Liz Truss, appointed just days ago. The politicians came and went but the monarch carried on, the Queen in Parliament a neutral and unifying figure in an otherwise disputatious institution. She signed into law more than 4,000 Bills.

Her great achievement was to keep the monarchy relevant even as the demotic forces of modernism closed in and threatened to kill off something that could easily be caricatured as outdated and irrelevant. The Queen's skill was an unerring ability to understand what the country wanted and to reflect its wishes.

Her sense of duty was apparent to everyone; even the doughtiest republicans gave her credit for that. But it underpinned a deep understanding of the institution that she represented and its central role in our island story and its liberal democracy.

Her Majesty's loyal service to her people reciprocated their loyalty to her. There have been times in our past when the British have retained only grudging love for the monarchy because they have been less than enamoured of the monarch. That was never the case with Queen Elizabeth. The affection in which she was held was an important bulwark for the institution itself.

Moreover, she never sought the celebrity status that our culture now fetishises. Until the end, she remained a very private, even reticent, and undemonstrative individual. She personified the old values of courtesy and decency that are too often these days dismissed as fuddy-duddy and old-fashioned.

The Queen was also a connection to our past, the personification of the nation's stability and longevity. Astonishingly, one of her godfathers,

Arthur, Duke of Connaught, was born in 1850, the third son of Queen Victoria. This line out to history is something only a hereditary monarchy can provide.

Instinctively, people know that the arrangement we have now is better than the elective system that would replace it. The palpable absence of any democratic choice in the appointment of the new King is not a weakness but a strength because of the constitutional checks on the power of the Crown. The most important aspect of the role now inherited by Charles is its symbolism, the continuation of an ancient contractual relationship between monarch and people. Moreover, a constitutional monarchy can operate in a way that is simply beyond the scope of an elected head of state.

Its neutrality means the Crown can help secure smooth and peaceful handovers of political power and restrain abuses of authority, as we have seen only this week. The Queen's final public duty was to oversee a trouble-free transition of executive power that in other countries might have engendered a political and constitutional crisis. How many other nations can seamlessly change their head of state and leader of government in a week without tumult? It comes with great sadness, yes, but the country's stability has owed a great deal to the Queen's presence at its heart.

The influence she wielded as a hereditary head of state derived from a deep-rooted hold on the affections of the people which a politician can never hope to achieve. The Queen was a reminder of our past, of the continuity of our national story and of the virtues of resilience, ingenuity and tolerance which created it.

We should not forget either that it is not only the United Kingdom that has lost a monarch but Australia, Canada, New Zealand and 11 other overseas territories which retained the Queen as their head of state. With her gone, will they be able to resist the pressure to become republics?

Throughout her many years on the Throne, it was the Queen's, and the country's, good fortune that she was accompanied by a consort who felt the impulse of duty and service just as strongly. It would be hard to imagine the Queen making the commitment to her role that she did without the support of the Duke of Edinburgh, the husband she once called "quite simply, my strength and stay all these years", who predeceased her by just 18 months. No lengthy widowhood for her as with Queen Victoria; and she was able to see her reign through to a triumphant Platinum Jubilee, the like of which will almost certainly never be seen again.

The Queen's life was not without its vicissitudes. She faced many of the difficulties that beset all families, of broken relationships, divorces and the unhappiness of children and grandchildren. Despite the grandness of her position, she was as subject to the more disappointing aspects of life as the rest of us. As a nation, we all mourn her passing together. The Second Age of Elizabeth is at an end. Long live King Charles III.

Young or old, all of us in Britain are Elizabethans in our own particular way

To the younger generation she was the nation's grandma, but the Queen was much more than that

MADELINE GRANT



I was sitting in the House of Commons watching a debate yesterday when it became clear that something very serious was happening.

There was a sudden burst of activity around the Speaker's chair; a flurry of muttered briefings. Eyes widened and brown envelopes circulated. The Leader of the Opposition darted out of the Chamber and returned, wearing a black tie and looking sombre.

I've always been a monarchist, but even I was taken aback by my emotional, almost physical, reaction to the sad news; a wave of nausea and a sudden desire to ring my parents. For most of us, Elizabeth II had simply always been there; resolute, dutiful and unshowy.

She was the nation's "strength and stay", providing the long-running backdrop to our lives – the ultimate role model of service and sacrifice.

A shy young girl, she could, until her uncle's abdication, have expected to lead a comfortable, rural existence in relative obscurity,

The Queen's sheer longevity meant that every generation had its own relationship with her

wearing well-cut tweeds as chatelaine of an agreeable manor house and surrounded by gun-dogs.

She might have identified with Betjeman's slightly mischievous paean on the death of her grandfather George V: "Spirit of well-shot woodcock, partridge, snipe & flutter and bear him up the Norfolk sky."

The Queen perhaps did crave this kind of life at points during the seven decades of her reign. But she embraced her position uncomplainingly.

When she took the throne with her beloved consort at her side, she added a burst of youthful beauty and glamour to a dilapidated 1950s Britain, slowly rebuilding after the destruction of the Second World War.

But the Queen's sheer longevity meant that every generation had its own relationship with her – which perhaps explains the sense of disbelief many of us now feel.

Few alive today can remember a time before her. My own grandma, who also died this year, was the Queen's exact contemporary, and like millions of children of that era, grew up listening to Lilibet and Margaret's crackling wartime radio broadcasts.

My mother, now a pensioner, was born two years after the Coronation. In that optimistic age, her cohort of

post-war children were nicknamed the "New Elizabethans". But whether Baby Boomer, Generation X, Millennial or Zoomer, we are all Elizabethans in our own way.

Younger generations only ever truly knew Her Majesty as an older lady, but she was perhaps all the more impressive for it.

In the Queen, many of us saw our own grandparents and the admirable qualities of the "greatest generation" that fought and lived through the war.

Certainly no one more closely personalised their dauntlessness and no-fuss stoicism.

The Queen famously wore bright colours to stand out for the public wishing to see her in a crowd; "I have to be seen to be believed" as she put it. But this sartorial consistency also birthed a fashion icon. For many children, the Queen was the earliest cultural lesson – one of the first people they ever drew.

But she was much more than just an emissary of wartime Britain, a visual icon or even a symbolic national grandma.

She united the country as no politician could – bridging the divide between young and old, just as her Christmas messages authentically stated both the core tenets of the Anglican faith and celebrated a Britain more pluralistic than ever before.

Feminist friends delighted over the story of the Queen terrifying the King of Saudi Arabia during a visit to Balmoral, by insisting on driving him around – at a time before Saudi Arabian women had the right to obtain a driving licence.

Her more unusual public appearances – with Paddington during the Platinum Jubilee and with James Bond at the 2012 London Olympics – prompted delight in troubled times.

Incidentally, the Queen was on the throne for every possible iteration of James Bond; every film and all Fleming's novels too. To me, this statistic seems even more astonishing than the number of prime ministers who served during her reign.

At a time when so much else seems to be in a state of decay, are we ready for this awful news? We haven't just lost a monarch, but something much more intangible – a part of ourselves and our national identity.

How fitting, however, that the final picture of the Queen should have been of her greeting her last prime minister, smiling that warm, radiant smile that always transformed her face and instantly rolled back the years. It was the same smile that lit up Westminster Abbey on her wedding day. Despite her frailty, there she was, discharging her constitutional duties, facilitating the transition of power for the 14th time during her reign.

We owe her an unimaginable debt. It's hard to write this without getting emotional again, but then again, as Her Majesty herself put it, grief is the price we pay for love.



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Ritual, tradition and ceremony give the nation the language to mourn

At a time of national grief, old customs hit the heart the hardest, none more so than the tolling of a bell

CHRISTOPHER HOWSE



A single bell tolling is a most moving sound, a drop falling into the still sea of time. Seventy years ago, it was the five-ton bell called Great Tom at St Paul's that rang once a minute for two hours for King George VI.

Now it is his daughter's turn. We heard the bell toll from the Curfew Tower at Windsor during the funeral procession of the Duke of Edinburgh last year. At each toll, a gun was fired by the King's Troop of the Royal Horse Artillery.

Bells and guns sound for the Queen now.

At the death of a monarch, ceremonial comes into action, not automatically but because everyone

This is not private opinion nor empty ceremonial but a ritual by which the nation expresses the Queen's place in its life

with a role knows what to do, even though it is such a long time since such a thing last happened.

It is supposed to be impersonal; it is supposed to be formal.

For this is not private opinion nor empty ceremonial but a ritual by which the nation expresses the Queen's place in its life.

One thing changed at the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. At Buckingham Palace until then the royal standard flew when the Queen was in residence. Otherwise no flag flew.

But to convey royal mourning to a people not necessarily versed in protocol, the Queen was persuaded that the Union flag should for the first time be flown above the Palace – at half mast.

There is no moment when the United Kingdom is without a monarch. The accession council meeting at St James's Palace confirms that the new monarch has come to the throne.

This council groans with the weight of precedent, because it is mostly composed of Privy Counsellors. But at the last count, there were 719 of them. So a selection had to be made for the accession council.

They were to be joined by the Great Officers of State. These are not ministers such as the Home Secretary or Chancellor of the Exchequer.

They are ceremonial positions of great antiquity: the Lord High Chancellor, whose position predates the Norman Conquest (and since Tuesday has been filled by Brandon Lewis), the Lord Great Chamberlain, who in the person of the Marquess of Cholmondeley we have grown used to seeing at the state opening of Parliament wearing a red and gold-frogged coat, bearing a long white wand and expertly walking backwards.

These roles are not trivial, even if the advent of Penny Mordaunt as Lord President of the Council and Lord True as Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal this week made little impact.

There are other tasks for here-today-and-gone-tomorrow politicians, but the British constitution keeps itself in balance by handing down functions: the more solemn the role, the more antiquated the dress it assumes.

None is more traditional than that of the Earl Marshal, held by the Duke of Norfolk. He organises state

Without the ritual, Britain would still mourn, but the language for its doing so would be shrivelled and ordinary

ceremonials, such as the funerals of monarchs, and is at the head of the College of Arms.

Garter King of Arms, in his gold-embroidered tabard with lions and harp, has the task of proclaiming the new King from the Proclamation Gallery at St James's Palace.

It is the crenellated first-floor balcony visible to the public from Marlborough Road, at the far side of the open-ended Friary Court at the palace.

In normal times, the heralds of the College of Arms are close to the border of absurdity. Even a century and a half ago, they were portrayed as playing card characters in Tenniel's illustrations to *Alice in Wonderland*.

But, having reappeared after the sterile years of the Cromwellian Commonwealth, it is a good thing that these Gilbertian figures have remained. Few know their names. (Since last year, Garter Principal King of Arms has been David White.)

This is the triumph of ceremony over celebrity. The words read by Garter at the proclamation of the King do not say: "The Queen is dead. God save the King." But that is what they mean.

What could be more solemn?

Without the gun carriages, the Imperial State Crown on its cushion, the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Dean of Westminster in their robes, the Yeomen of the Guard in Tudor uniforms bearing long partizans, and the men and women of the Armed Forces at the lying in state – all this before the state funeral – Britain would still mourn, but the language for its doing so would be shrivelled and commonplace.

All this is no denial of modernity. After all, George VI's funeral was televised. But the old customs hit the heart hardest, none more than that tolling bell. We know for whom it tolls.

"Every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main," John Donne said truly enough. Every man, woman and child is part of the kingdom; none are excluded, whatever their opinions.

When the bell tolls for the Queen it tolls for us all.

FOLLOW Christopher Howse on Twitter @BeardyHouse; READ MORE at telegraph.co.uk/opinion

Letters to the Editor

Queen Elizabeth embodied Britain at its very best – and will be missed throughout the world

SIR – The loss of Queen Elizabeth is a truly deep and palpable one which will resonate through many generations. She was revered, will be missed by all – and never replaced.

Chris Learmont-Hughes
Caldy, Wirral

SIR – Queen Elizabeth led by example for more than 70 years, and was adored and respected for her service not only to our country but also to the wider world.

History will remember her with the greatest admiration and affection, and a level of respect unparalleled in the modern era.

Kim Potter
Lambourn, Berkshire

SIR – Yesterday our wonderful monarch died.

My husband and I are in our late 70s and we were in tears as soon as we heard the news. The nation has lost its greatest treasure.

Wendy May
Hereford

SIR – Like so many, I am devastated by the Queen's death.

I have loved her for most of my life and learnt to dance round a maypole – incidentally, in the pouring rain – for her coronation.

She has been an inspiration to our country and will be sorely missed.

Jacqueline Davies
Faversham, Kent

SIR – God save the King.

Hannah Hunt
Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire

SIR – Queen Elizabeth reigned for more than 70 years.

It will take us far longer to understand what we have lost.

Victor Launert
Matlock Bath, Derbyshire

SIR – Thank God the Queen made it to her Platinum Jubilee after her faultless service to the nation.

Dominic Shelmerdine
London SW3

SIR – Never was a monarch loved so much by so many for so long.

Charles Steward
Chippingham, Wiltshire

SIR – What are we going to do without her?

Paul Strong
Clayby, Lincolnshire

SIR – We mourn the loss of a remarkable woman.

Queen Elizabeth had the grace and dignity to walk with presidents and world leaders, while having the humour and humility to accompany James Bond and Paddington Bear.

A life of unparalleled duty and service. I am bereft. Enjoy your marmalade sandwich, Ma'am.

Lt Col Matthew Perkin (ret'd)
Morzine, Haute-Savoie, France

SIR – "And all the trumpets sounded for her on the other side."

Susan Cokyll
London NW1

SIR – No longer a Baby Boomer, I now consider myself an Elizabethan.

David Garnett
Northwich, Cheshire

SIR – Now in my 80s, I have been a lifetime admirer of Queen Elizabeth.

At 12 years old in the quadrangle of Christ's Hospital school, I remember well the very spot I stood on when the death of George VI was announced, and Elizabeth was pronounced his successor.

Subsequently, of course, we all watched the coronation live on a 12-inch back-and-white screen.

A few years later, as a student in 1958, I worked on Derby Day for National Car Parks controlling the field between the station and the course, which I kept closed until the Queen's coach had driven through.

As I opened the gate to let it pass, she smiled at me.



Queen Elizabeth in the Royal Gallery before the State Opening of Parliament, 2015

small plus on a miserable day for her admirers all around the world.

Caroline Everett
Rye, East Sussex

SIR – Much has already been said about the qualities of the late Queen.

Couldn't they all be summed up in the word *integrity*, which covers all? This she showed us all her life.

George Watson
Woodbridge, Suffolk

SIR – We would all do well to recognise that Queen Elizabeth's stature globally stemmed not just from her wisdom and integrity but also from the fact that she embodied Great Britain.

Andrew Roberts
Oswestry, Shropshire

SIR – Queen Elizabeth was the hub of our wheel, the connection between the axe – Britain and Commonwealth – through the many spokes to the wheel, the outer world.

No matter how fast or manically that wheel spun, or how bumpy the ride, she remained steadfast, dignified, much respected and loved throughout. God speed her on her final journey.

Gerald Lamming
Sutton Coldfield

SIR – I must have been about eight years old and was spending the summer with my grandmother at her holiday cabin in the mountains of North Carolina. One day, prevented by rain from going out to play, I discovered a pile of old *Life* magazines from the late 1940s and early 1950s. One that caught my eye was from June 15 1953. It featured the coronation two weeks earlier of Queen Elizabeth II.

I'm sure I must have known where England was and had heard of Queen Elizabeth. Growing up, as I was in the Episcopal Church, I probably had some vague idea about Westminster Abbey.

As the hours passed and I leafed through that magazine and a few others featuring the new Queen, I fell in love. With England. With monarchy. With pomp and circumstance. And with Queen Elizabeth. I thought she was beautiful. A real queen, not a pretend one.

The next day my grandmother drove me into town, where I bought a scrapbook with some of my spending money. Back at the cabin, I began cutting out dozens of magical photographs of the Queen and of events surrounding the beginning of her reign and pasting them into the book. I think I have stored away in a box somewhere.

Ever since that day, this American

has followed the life of the Queen with a sense of closeness to her, of deep respect for her, particularly for her grace, her sense of duty, her steadfastness, and her deep Christian faith.

How many times I dreamt over the years of meeting her in various settings and having a chat with her about something. Now, I shall never meet her. She is gone, and a special part of my life has gone with her. May she rest in peace and rise in glory. And may King Charles III reign long and well.

Albion Land
Albion Land, Granada, Spain

SIR – My recollection of our late, much-loved Queen is of what an excellent listener she was.

On the occasion of our third and last meeting in 2004, she inquired: "Oh, and you still live here?"

"Yes Ma'am", I replied.

Paul Robinson
Berlin, Germany

SIR – I am a Mason, and it is a time-honoured tradition of ours to toast the Queen at our regular Lodge meetings.

We will be proud to do this one last time for the finest monarch of our lifetime, who will be dearly missed.

Kenny Lawn
York

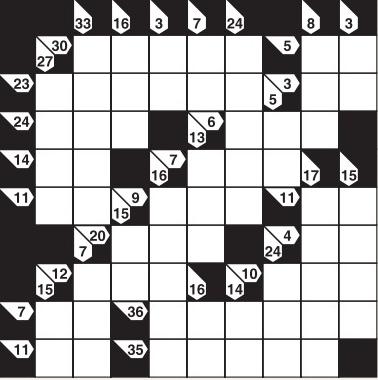
SIR – On February 5 1952 I was dining in the mess of HMS St Angelo. In those days, the evening meal in the wardroom was always formal, with the port being passed and the loyal toast drunk. That day I had just bought a car and was short of cash, so for the first time ever I took the option to drink the loyal toast in water. I thereby missed the last opportunity to toast the King in port.

Puzzles, Mind Games & Telegraph Toughie

KAKURO

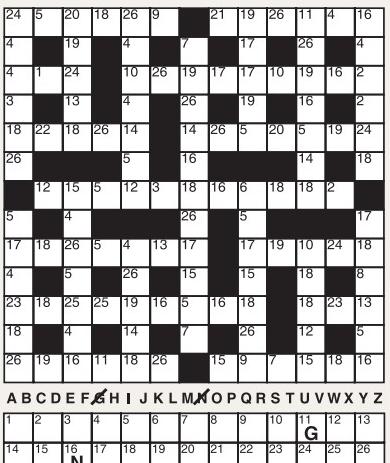
To solve kakuro you must enter a number between 1 and 9 in the empty squares without repeating a digit. The clues are the numbers on the black squares and are the sum of the solution numbers. The clue pointers indicate the direction of the answers. A block of two squares with a clue of 3 will solve as 2,1 and a 5 will produce 4,1 or 2,3. A 4 can only be 1,3, never 2,2. Solution on Monday.

DIABOLICAL NO 4407



CODEWORDS

Numbers are substituted for letters in this crossword grid. In the smaller key grid some letters are solved. Use these as clues to complete your first word. This will solve more letters that you can then enter in the key grid and main grid. Solution for the first Codewords tomorrow and the second on Monday.

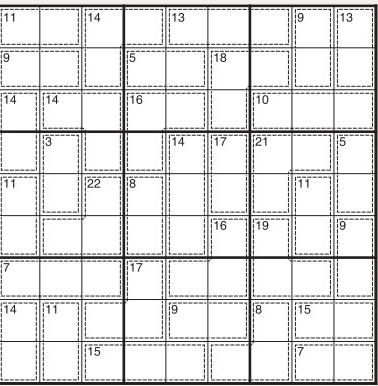


For today's right-hand codewords solutions call 0905 757 0131. For up to five extra letter clues call 0905 757 0130 or text DTCODE (leaving no spaces) to 64343. Calls cost £1 per minute, plus network access charge; texts cost £1, plus network access charge. Services open Mon - Fri. SP: Spoke Ltd - Helpline 0333 202 3390.

KILLER SUDOKU

Your clues are the caged numbers that represent the sum of the numbers within the cage. As in standard sudoku, each 3x3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9. Solution on Monday.

TOUGH NO 3654



ANAGRAMS

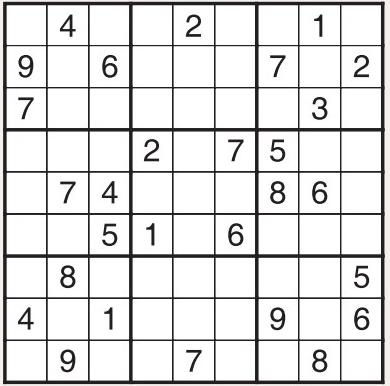
Each of the anagrams below spells out the name of a literary character. Solution on Monday.

OMIT REPLY RONDO ALONE ANATOMIC PEN

SUDOKU

To solve this puzzle each 3x3 box, each row and also each column must contain all the numbers from 1 to 9. There are numerous strategies to help you solve sudoku. Regular solution tomorrow. Tough solution on Sunday.

REGULAR NO 5977



Sudoku Solution For today's tough sudoku solution call 0905 757 0136. Calls cost £1 per minute, plus network access charge, services open Mon - Fri. SP: Spoke - 0333 202 3390.

MIND GYM

NO 3866

Start on the left with the given number and work your way across following the instructions in each cell. Target time: 30 seconds. Solution below.

BEGINNER

7	x9	-15	7/8 OF THIS	TRIPLE IT	-78	+6	X BY ITSELF	+34	HALVE IT	ANSWER
---	----	-----	-------------	-----------	-----	----	-------------	-----	----------	--------

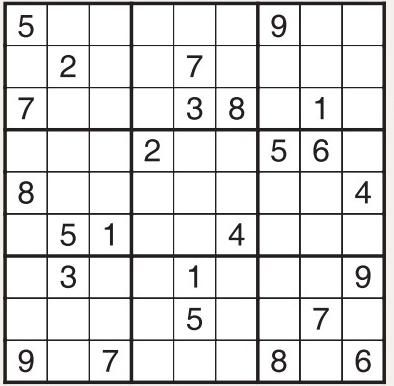
INTERMEDIATE

143	÷11	x6	TRIPLE IT	-66	75% OF THIS	HALVE IT	2/3 OF THIS	-35	X BY ITSELF	ANSWER
-----	-----	----	-----------	-----	-------------	----------	-------------	-----	-------------	--------

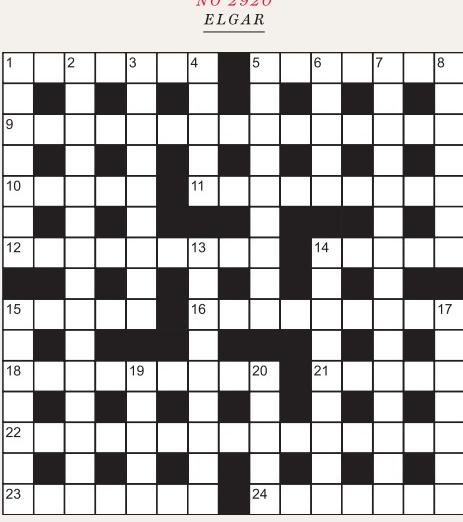
ADVANCED

152	7/8 OF THIS	x5	-182	÷23	X BY ITSELF	-189	2/3 OF THIS	÷14	x17.75	ANSWER
-----	-------------	----	------	-----	-------------	------	-------------	-----	--------	--------

TOUGH NO 5977



Notes



Across

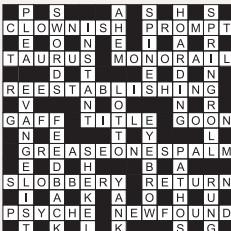
- East European collects bill for drinking (7)
- Jabber disjoinedly, yes – about nothing, apparently (7)
- Fed with line, not like anything in a Coward play (7,8)
- Provocatively dance tango with airman (5)
- Sheeran takes offence with support accommodating beguiling musician (4,5)
- Blues defenders all at sea (5,4)
- Artist's mother and child eye detail on arrivals board (5)
- Shilling for good kid (5)
- Queen's Gallery exhibits a Constable retrospective, entertaining stars (9)
- Original in album that group playing has taken time to pen? (9)
- Treat endlessly knocked back – can it lead to indigestion? (5)
- I asked questions, being worried about warning given by energy firm (6,9)
- Attacker from above strikes Trelawny's heart (7)
- With a change of sides built in (7)
- Regulars departing better hurry in an ancient part of Italy (7)
- Titular changeling has accepted being divine (9)
- Father and son see badly cooked goose, in the end (5,4)
- Chief of Staff overseeing post, greenlight whip in Cape Town (7)
- Flavouring also stays with you? (7)
- Author now showing advanced years? Not one of them (5)
- As the hour's moved on, you'll have to run to make it (5)

Toughie No 2919



POLYWORD

Using the given letters no more than once, make as many words as possible of four or more letters, always including the central letter. Capitalised words and plurals are disallowed. You can also make one word using all the nine available letters. Solution on Monday.



How did you rate?

15 words - Average, 19 - Good, 23 - Very good, 27 - Excellent.

Help with clues
Single Across/Down clues 0905 757 0126.
All Across/Down clues 0905 757 0127.
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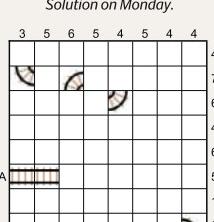
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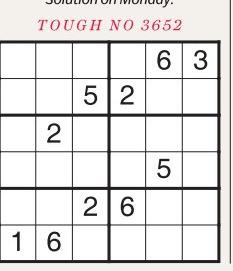
TRAIN TRACKS

Lay down tracks to allow a train to travel from A to B. Only use straight and curved rails and the track cannot cross itself. The numbers indicate how many sections of rail go in each column and row. Solution on Monday.



MINI SUDOKU

Fill in the grid in such a way that every row and column and every 2x3 box contains the numbers 1-6. Solution on Monday.



Yesterday's solutions

Sudoku Regular and Tough No 5976



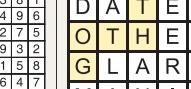
Polyword: hierarchy, hierarch, charier, archery, racier, charry, archer, archier, reach, racer, hairy, hairy, erica, chary, charr, chair, chair, ceria, carry, carer, aier, yeah, rhea, rear, rare, racy, race, hear, hair, eyra, each, chay, char, chai, carr, care, arch, airy, acry, acry, achy, acry, acer.

Word Ladder: Gasp, wasp, wisp, wise, wine, wing, ping.

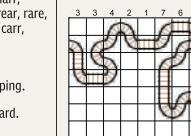
Anagrams: 1. Flagstone 2. Roofing felt 3. Plasterboard.

Todays Mind Gym: Beginner: 49 Intermediate: 49 Advanced: 213

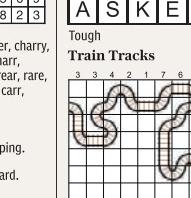
PlusWord No 109



Tough Train Tracks



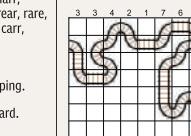
Mini Sudoku No 3651



Killer Sudoku No 3653



Codewords 1 and 2

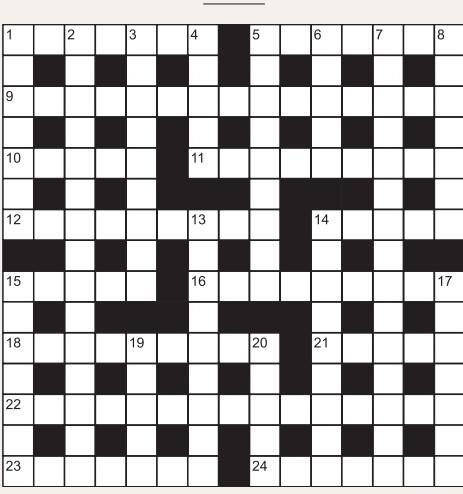


Codewords 1 and 2

TELEGRAPH TOUGHIE

NO 2920

ELGAR



Down

- Pistols rating success in the charts (3,4)
- Know they're upset by daily (3,3,4,5)
- Good luck playing Akela, bizarrely in production of 1984? (5,1,3)
- Put restriction in place as lawyer goes to prove cases (5)
- Ace, retired, brought in to keep watch on flat? Get me! (5,4)
- On debut, girl unfortunately appears in split dress (3,2)
- Seeing it sickens, I politely decline rather large number (3,1,6,5)
- Regulars departing better hurry in an ancient part of Italy (7)
- Titular changeling has accepted being divine (9)
- Father and son see badly cooked goose, in the end (5,4)
- Chief of Staff overseeing post, greenlight whip in Cape Town (7)
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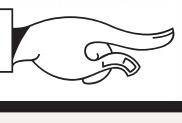
Notes

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HM Queen Elizabeth II

1926–2022

DAVID BAILEY/PA WIRE

HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II, by the Grace of God Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Defender of the Faith, who has died aged 96, was the longest-serving monarch of the United Kingdom; during a period of remarkable change throughout her realms and the world at large, she proved herself one of the most effective and best-loved sovereigns the nation has known.

From the moment of her accession to the throne, comparisons were made with her Tudor namesake; particularly in the assumption that the country's fortunes were, as in 1558, at a low ebb and that its one hope lay in the character of the new Queen. But few could have dared to believe Richard Dimbleby's declaration at the time of the Coronation – that "no more devoted or courageous person could carry on the monarchy and envy of a large part of the

world" – would prove so accurate. She lived well into the 21st century: alert and well informed until the end, with only minor concessions to old age, and then only when she was in her 90s. She remained a calm presence: steadfast, with a clear vision of her role as Britain's monarch and as Head of the Commonwealth, to both of which roles she was wholly committed.

As Queen she knew how to represent Britain; as a woman she was self-effacing, asking little for herself on a personal level. Duty was her watchword, and at the end of a long life of duty fulfilled, her achievements were remarkable.

A hallmark of her reign were the many acts of conciliation and reconciliation, evidenced in her receiving President Theodor Heuss of Germany in 1958 and her important three-week visit to West Germany in 1965. There were conciliatory state visits between Britain and Japan (in 1971 and 1975, and in 1998, some not without controversy),

and the Queen was able to mark political changes by visiting China in 1986, and Russia in 1994.

Fresher in the public memory was her ground-breaking visit to Ireland in 2011 and the return state visit (of the Irish president Michael Higgins) to Windsor in 2014. In all these endeavours, she and her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh, sought to put aside the differences of the past and took steps to ensure an easier climate for the future.

Against many predictions, the nation (and even, eventually, the Labour government) responded to the Silver Jubilee in 1977 with enthusiasm, staging events and bunting-festooned street parties. And by the time of her Golden Jubilee year in 2002, the widespread demonstrations of affection and loyalty from her subjects were as strong as those of half a century before. The celebrations which then marked her Diamond Jubilee in 2012 – a year crowned, most memorably, by her triumphant "arrival" by parachute at the opening ceremony of the London Olympics – showed a nation united in its affection for its monarch and at ease with the centuries-old institution she embodied. That she lived to celebrate the unique milestone of a Platinum Jubilee was nothing short of remarkable.

The very nature of those celebrations, and the warmth and good humour that underpinned them, made the point that this had been an enormously successful reign by a devoted and popular monarch.

Throughout, the Queen was nobly supported by Prince Philip, ever at her side until he stepped down from public duties in 2017 at the age of 96. He lived on until 2021, dying shortly before his 100th birthday.

At moments such as the Diamond Jubilee (the Queen

Continued overleaf

Obituary

Continued from page 19

resisted national celebrations for occasions such as her Sapphire Jubilee in 2017 and the 70th anniversary of her marriage in the same year, it was hard to remember that, from time to time during her reign, there had been debate over the role and future of the monarchy. Even during those difficult periods, however, there was no debate about the good fortune that the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth had enjoyed under the reign of the Queen herself.

The most virulent republicans conceded that it was impossible to imagine any other figure who could have carried the burdens of the Head of State so effectively and graciously, or provided such a unifying presence.

She had made clear her dedication to the task

on the occasion of her 21st birthday when, as Princess Elizabeth, she made a moving declaration from Cape Town that was broadcast across the Empire: "I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong. But I shall not have the strength to carry out this resolution alone unless you join in it with me, as I now invite you to do: I know that your support will be unfailingly given. God help me to make good my vow, and God bless all of you who are willing to share in it."

It was the great blessing of Elizabeth II's reign, and the great good fortune of her subjects, that she succeeded in this to a degree that could not have been expected or even hoped for.

CHILDHOOD

Yet it was with no premonition of a second Elizabethan Age that the daughter born to the Duke and Duchess of York on April 21 1926 was given the name of her 16th-century forebear.

Only three lives, it is true, stood between the infant princess and the throne: those of her grandfather King George V and of his two eldest sons, the Prince of Wales and the Duke of York. However, there was no reason to suppose that the Prince of Wales, at 31 a much-pursued bachelor, would not marry and have children, the first of whom would instantly displace Princess Elizabeth in line of succession. So too would any son born to the Duchess of York; she was no more than 25 and, in spite of having had her daughter delivered by caesarean section, in robust health.

In the fashion of the day, the nation rejoiced at the royal birth. But it never doubted that in one way or another, Princess Elizabeth would be spared the gilded treadmill of a monarch. It was an illusion that, at least for the first 10 years of her life, protected her from many cares.

The future Queen Elizabeth II was born at 17 Bruton Street, off Berkeley Square, the five-storey London house of the Duchess of York's parents, the 14th Earl of Strathmore and his wife. The child's parents were then living at White Lodge, Richmond Park, a draughty, neglected royal residence without adequate heating or plumbing, too near London for privacy, too far for convenience. Nor was a maternity home thought suitable for the birth of a princess. Even a generation later her father, who by then had succeeded to the throne as George VI, declined to undergo an operation on which his life depended except in the familiar but far from aseptic rooms of Buckingham Palace. Pressed by doctors and surgeons to change his mind, he declared: "I have never heard of a king going to a hospital before."

The infant was given the names of three queens: Elizabeth after her mother, Alexandra after her great-grandmother, Mary after her grandmother. Escaping from White Lodge, the Duke and Duchess of York were soon installed at 145 Piccadilly, an imposing mansion (destroyed during the war) within sight of Buckingham Palace.

The King later gave them the use of the Royal Lodge, Windsor Great Park, originally a cottage of George IV, and Birkhall, near Balmoral in Scotland. The little princess was thus much in the company of her grandparents, who melted at her demure charm. It was the King's imitation of how Elizabeth spoke her name that led her to be called Lilibet in the family.

"There is no one here at all," Winston Churchill wrote to his wife from Balmoral in the autumn of 1928, "except the family, the household and Princess Elizabeth - aged two. The latter is a character. She has an air of authority and reflectiveness astonishing in an infant." The Duke of York perceptively saw her cast in Victorian rather than Elizabethan mould. "From the first moment of talking," he told Osbert Sitwell, "she showed so much character that it was impossible not to wonder that history would repeat itself."

Even in the nursery she brought poise to royal duties. One morning at Windsor Castle, the officer commanding the guard strode across to where a pram stood, containing Princess Elizabeth: "Permission to march off, please, Ma'am." There was an inclination of a small bonneted head and a wave of a tiny paw.

Nearly a hundred years earlier, the young Queen Victoria had emerged less well from just such an encounter. She wrote in her diary: "Lord M. told me that he heard it had been remarked that I didn't bow to the Officer when the Escort changed; I thanked Lord Melbourne for telling me so, and I said I would take care and do so."

Princess Elizabeth had a traditional upbringing. Her nanny was Mrs Knight, known as Alla, the daughter of a tenant farmer on Lord Strathmore's estate in Hertfordshire. She displayed the old-fashioned virtues of her breed: starchy discipline tempered by infinite kindness. There was a nursemaid, too: Margaret MacDonald, known as Bobo, daughter of a domestic coachman, who was to continue in the Princess's service as dresser and devoted friend.

They were joined in 1932, two years after the birth of a younger daughter to the Duchess of York, Princess Margaret Rose, by a nursery governess. Marion Crawford was a tall, forthright Scots girl, not much older than 20, who remained with the family for the next 17 years. "Crawfie", as she was known, gave the children their first lessons. It was not an exacting education.

At the age of 10, the elder princess was spending only seven and a half hours a week in the schoolroom, although further periods were set aside for music, dancing and drawing. Queen Mary was disturbed to hear that subjects such as poetry, Bible reading and literature merited no more than half an hour each; she also urged more history and geography. But her granddaughter's education was not confined to what Crawfie taught her. She startled the prime minister one day with her greeting: "I saw you in *Punch* this morning, Mr McDonald, leading a flock of geese."

Crawfie also noted Lilibet's passion for order, system and design. She wrote of her charges: "The two little girls had their own way of dealing with their barley sugar. Margaret kept the whole lot in her small, hot hand and pushed it into her mouth. Lilibet, however, carefully sorted hers out onto the table, large and small pieces together, and then ate them very daintily and methodically." The elder Princess's obsession with tidiness at one time led her to hop out of bed several times a night to make sure that her shoes were quite straight, her clothes arranged just so. She was laughed out of the habit, but that early regard for routine proved of lasting value to a constitutional monarch.

During a carefree childhood she acquired the first of an unbroken line of irascible but devoted corgis and her first pony: the beginnings of a lifelong love and understanding of dogs and horses. In 1936, however, the weight of responsibility suddenly intruded on this blissful period, as a sequence of events brought her to the very steps of the throne. King George V died in January, and in December there was the abdication of her then favourite uncle David, King Edward VIII, and the accession of her father as King George VI. Princess Elizabeth was now Heir Presumptive. Only the birth of a son to her 36-year-old mother, the Queen, could deprive the child of her ultimate destiny.

Such an event was far from improbable; Queen Elizabeth II was to give birth to her own youngest child when nearly 38. But it was too speculative to interfere with the 10-year-old Lilibet's preparation for an enhanced role.

Crawfie later wrote that when the Princess was told of her new status, she declared: "I will be good." Those were, as it happened, the precise words used by the future Queen Victoria when, at the same age as Elizabeth, she was shown a chart of the line of succession. Who shall deny a governess her tender memory?

That Albert, Duke of York, chose to be known as King George VI on his elder brother's abdication proclaimed that he was in every sense his father's son; that fickle brilliance had given way to tradition; that the winter of discontent was to be followed, if not by glorious summer, at least by the glow of domestic virtue. "Fort Belvedere was an operetta," Lady Diana Cooper observed after staying at Windsor for the first time in the new reign, comparing it with the former King's retreat near Virginia Water. "This is an institution." But responsibility casts a shadow; and after the move to Buckingham Palace, that most reluctant monarch and his family - "The Firm", as the King liked to call it - never quite recaptured the happiness of their former seclusion. On the outbreak of war in 1939 the two sisters were first isolated in Scotland, then immured in a blacked-out Windsor Castle. The pace of Elizabeth's education quickened. Henry Marten, Provost of Eton, was summoned to introduce her to constitutional history (from which Princess Margaret was excluded, to her lifelong resentment). She acquired another tutor in the Vicomtesse de Bellaigue, who gave her a valuable asset in spoken French, also teaching history and literature in the same language. (Mme de Bellaigue's son, Geoffrey, later became Surveyor of the Queen's Works of Art.)

For diversion there were tea parties given by the officers on guard and home-produced pantomimes, with Princess Elizabeth as a Prince Charming in tights; the King, however, insisted that the heir to the throne should wear nothing too short or unseemly.

On her 16th birthday the Princess succeeded her great-great-uncle and godfather the Duke of Connaught, a son of Queen Victoria, as Colonel of the Grenadier Guards. In 1945 she assumed more active military duties as a second subaltern in the Auxiliary Territorial Service, learning to drive and maintain the heaviest military vehicles.

LOVE & MARRIAGE

Princess Elizabeth had fallen in love. A few weeks before the outbreak of war, on a visit with her parents to the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, she met an officer of family background as turbulent as her own was secure. Prince Philip of Greece and Denmark was born in 1921 at the royal summer house of Mon Repos, Corfu, the only son of Prince Andrew of Greece, a brother of King Constantine I. His mother was Princess Alice of Battenberg, whose brother Lord Louis Mountbatten had since 1917 borne the anglicised version of the family name.

When the Princess met her future husband at Dartmouth in 1939, she was then 13, he five years older. With the good looks of a Viking and a young man's self-confident charm, he won her heart on sight. They corresponded and sometimes he was asked to stay at Windsor. As early as January 1941, the well-informed "Chips" Channon MP, met him at a cocktail party in Athens and wrote in his diary: "He is to be our Prince Consort and that is why he is serving in our Navy."

The Mountbatten and Greek royal families encouraged the match. Princess Elizabeth's parents, however, were more cautious. "We both think she is too young for that now," the King wrote to Queen Mary in March 1944, "as she has never met any young men of her own age."

So her vigil was prolonged. The war ended and with her sister she was swept off on a three-month tour of South Africa with the King and Queen in the hard winter of 1947. She spent her 21st birthday in Cape Town and broadcast her moving message of dedication to the Imperial Commonwealth. "There she goes," the King said to Field Marshal Smuts, "alone as usual, an extraordinary girl."

Her heart remained elsewhere, however. Prince Philip had meanwhile applied to become a naturalised British subject: essential if he were to qualify for a permanent commission in the Royal Navy, and desirable if he were to seek the hand of Princess Elizabeth in marriage. But there were difficulties. The future of the Greek monarchy hung in the balance and his change of nationality could be interpreted either as a provocative gesture of British support for the institution or as an equally unwelcome pointer to his own monarchy's impending collapse.

Then there was the problem of the name by which he would be known. That of the Royal House of Greece and Denmark, Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg-Glucksburg, clearly would not do. Eventually it was decided that, like his uncle, he should take the anglicised version of his mother's name of Battenberg. In March 1947 the *London Gazette* at last announced the metamorphosis of HRH Prince Philip of Greece and Denmark into Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten, Royal Navy. Even after Prince Philip's naturalisation, he and the Princess had to wait another four months before the King consented to their betrothal. The King remained a possessive father. "Anyone would think that she had travelled down from Scotland by herself," he said testily to a courtier one morning: the newspapers had not mentioned that the King, too, was on the train.

Lieutenant Mountbatten was required to change not only his nationality and his status but also his religion. In October 1947 he formally relinquished membership of the Greek Orthodox Church and was received into the Church of England by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Geoffrey Fisher.

There were compensations, however. On the day before the wedding he was made a Royal Highness, a Knight of the Garter, Baron Greenwich, Earl of Merioneth and Duke of Edinburgh. "It is a great deal," the King said, "to give a man all at once." With the characteristic precision the King brought to such arcane matters, he had bestowed the Garter on his daughter a week earlier to establish the precedence of a future sovereign over her future consort. Nor was Prince Philip allowed to invite his three surviving sisters, each the wife of German princes, to his wedding. It was, the King insisted, too soon after the end of the war. (By the time of the Coronation, they were welcome guests.)

The pageantry and ceremonial of the royal marriage on November 20 briefly dispelled the post-war austerity that by 1947 had become part of the British way of life. The bride, to whom an indulgent Board of Trade had granted extra clothing coupons, enchanted the nation in white satin. Prince Philip - tall, handsome and fair-haired - wore a naval uniform that, like its owner, had seen active service.

The honeymoon was spent first at Broadlands, near Romsey, the home of Lord and Lady Mountbatten, then at Birkhall, close by Balmoral. "Your leaving has left a great blank in our lives," the King wrote, "but do remember that your home is still yours and do come back to it as much and as often as possible." Until 1949 Princess Elizabeth had no option.

Without a London home of their own, she and her husband occupied a suite in Buckingham Palace, where their first child, Prince Charles, was born in November 1948. By August 1950, when she gave birth to Princess Anne, they had moved into Clarence House, a few hundred yards down the Mall.

Those first years of marriage were not spent only in Britain. Prince Philip resumed his naval career with the Mediterranean Fleet and Princess Elizabeth began to enjoy the carefree life of a naval officer's wife in Malta.

Then the King's health began to fail. He endured one dangerous operation in 1949 and another two years later. He seemed well enough for his daughter and her husband to undertake a tour of Canada and the United States in October 1951 and to leave for East Africa, Australia and New Zealand three months later. They got no further than Kenya. Early in the morning of February 6 1952, King George VI died in his sleep at Sandringham. His daughter, who had spent the night watching wild animals at Treetops, a game reserve in the Aberdare Forest, at once left for home with her husband.

It was as Queen Elizabeth II, a sad, slight figure in black, that she descended the aircraft steps at London Airport, as if symbolically claiming her kingdom.

The Empire mourned a brave and chivalrous King. But it was to the new reign that a nation, having endured five years of war and another six of austere peace, drably clad and plainly fed, looked for a symbol of youth and promise, of regeneration and hope. The Queen, not yet 26, her beauty touched by the ethereal, seemed to fulfil every need. And to guide her through the shoals of statesmanship, Winston Churchill was at hand: the saviour of his country in war had recently been restored to high office as the guardian of peace.

THE YOUNG QUEEN AS GLORIANA

Within a few hours of the King's death the prime minister had established a legend: that Britain stood upon the threshold of a new Elizabethan Age as much in renown as in name. "Famous have been the reigns of our Queens," Churchill told the nation in a BBC broadcast. "Some of the greatest periods in our history have unfolded under their sceptre. Now that we have the second Queen Elizabeth, also ascending the Throne in her 26th year, our thoughts are carried back nearly 400 years to the magnificent figure who presided over, and in many ways embodied and inspired, the grandeour and genius of the Elizabethan Age."

The illusion was sustained by the Coronation on June 2 1953, a day of sacred ceremonial and medieval pageantry seen on television by 20 million of her subjects. Later that year she became the first reigning sovereign to circumnavigate the globe, scarcely ever needing to set foot outside her own territories. It seemed irresistible to cast the radiant young Queen as Gloriana and to proclaim her the Second Elizabethan Age.

In retrospect the notion seems as insubstantial as the tinsel finery of the Festival of Britain that in 1951 had parodied the solid commercial enterprise of the Great Exhibition a century earlier. The Queen inherited a threadbare economy and an empire in dissolution; and in 1956 the Suez adventure left Britain isolated and condemned, not least by her paymaster, the United States.

The illusion of a Second Elizabethan Age seemed short-lived. Scots subjects resented that their Queen should be proclaimed Elizabeth II in a kingdom where no Elizabeth I had ever reigned, and blew up pillar-boxes bearing the unhistoric cipher. Even the loyal Scottish establishment gathered in St Giles' Cathedral in all their finery to present her with the Honours of Scotland - Crown, Sceptre and Sword - were dismayed that she appeared in day clothes, a rare error of judgment by her English private secretary, Sir Alan Lascelles.

The supposed Sassenach snub was barely redeemed by removing her handbag from the official painting of the ceremony that hangs in the Palace of Holyroodhouse. Republicans called for an end to the monarchy: "a gold filling in the mouth of decay", as the playwright John Osborne put it; radicals for a curb on royal expenditure; Tory reformers for a monarch less identified with aristocratic conventions and a hidebound court.

Of these three classes of critic, the last can claim most progress. Their standard bearer was the 2nd Lord Altringham, who later renounced his peerage and was known as John Grigg. Reviled both for what he said and what he was wrongly supposed to have said, he lived to see the abolition of presentation parties for debutantes and other quaint ceremonies confined to the rich and the well-born. Even when well-meant, much of that early criticism was cast in churlish language that cannot have failed to wound a woman doing her best in a role she had not sought. But she showed no sign of being upset.

Although the Queen smiled in public less easily than her mother, she continued for 70 years to go about her duties with disarming self-confidence.

In an age of ever-growing specialisation, no other person in the world was required to play so many roles or to display such diversity of talent under perpetual public scrutiny. She was the anointed Sovereign, protagonist of a drama that stretched back to the dawn of history. She was the head of state, the embodiment of the nation both at home and abroad, the focus of its pride and endeavour. She was her country's senior and most permanent civil servant, intimately concerned with every aspect of policy. She was the Supreme Governor of the Church of England. She was head of the Commonwealth, perhaps the most challenging yet satisfying of all her responsibilities. She was an alert custodian of untold treasure and great works of art and landed estates. She was a wife and a mother.

Anyone less level-headed than the Queen might have suffered a confusion of purpose, even of identity. But Henry Marten had taught her to recognise that the modern sovereign reigns but does not rule; that between Elizabeth I and Elizabeth II autocracy had surrendered to parliamentary democracy; that a republic, as the constitutional historian Walter Bagehot put it, had insinuated itself beneath the folds of a monarchy. And with a swipe at what later were known as bicycling monarchs, Bagehot continued: "There are arguments for not having a court, and there are arguments for having a splendid court, but there are no arguments for having a mean court."

The Queen tenaciously ensured that those medieval trappings outshone reality. She drove to the State Opening of Parliament in a gilded coach and wore a diamond crown to enunciate the egalitarian measures of her ministers. At Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle she entertained presidents in blue suits with a splendour worthy of Versailles. Until 1997 she carried her court with her to distant places in a Royal Yacht that symbolised both majestic hospitality and maritime tradition.

Only when she was 60 did she cease to celebrate her "official" birthday by riding through the capital at the head

of her Household Troops - a dazzling panoply of scarlet, blue and gold, of bearskins and plumes and cuirasses. Whatever economies Parliament imposed on her, she retained at her command a Master of the Horse and a Mistress of the Robes, a Clerk of the Closet and a Yeoman Bed Chamber, a Lord High Almoner and a Poet Laureate, two Gold Sticks, a Sergeant Surgeon, several apothecaries, chaplains galore and a coroner.

The arcane language of a medieval monarchy persisted into a democratic society without strain. After the tumult of a general election, the Court Circular, surmounted by the Royal Arms, would announce that the Queen had been "graciously pleased" to accept the resignation of a defeated prime minister; and that his successor had "kissed hands" on appointment - as if he were a 16th-century Cecil paying homage to an earlier Elizabeth - though the phrase was metaphorical. Ministers dependent on the ballot box still began their letters to the Sovereign, "With humble duty..."

More mundane responsibilities awaited the Queen. As the permanent head of a government department she was highly respected, spaciously housed and adequately paid, yet never wholly off duty and denied the peaceful retirement of a Whitehall mandarin. Ministers came and went, civil servants came and went, her own private secretaries came and went. At the beginning of her reign she was advised by men from the Victorian era. In later years she took advice from people younger than some of her grandchildren.

Yet the Queen remained perpetually at her post, an essential instrument of government, even in the 21st century. Without her assent, Parliament could not be summoned nor its statutes become law. Taxes could not be levied. No minister, judge, magistrate, bishop, ambassador or officer of the Armed Forces could take office. No honour or promotion in the public service was valid. The Queen of course transacted the nation's business on ministerial advice, whatever her private beliefs or reservations; not since 1707 has a monarch vetoed an Act of Parliament. Yet her role was neither as mechanical nor as frustrating as it sounded. The Sovereign also retains certain personal rights, or prerogatives.

After little more than 10 years on the throne, the Queen effectively lost the most important of them, the choice of a new prime minister whenever the need arose - the Conservative leadership contest of 1963, after Harold Macmillan's resignation, ushered in a new more democratic era. There remained, however, the right to be consulted, and so the right to encourage and to warn. Those elastic terms enabled her when confronted by any new legislation to sound a note of doubt or caution - or even disapproval. But to do so with confidence and effectiveness required her to be formidably well-informed.

Never throughout the reign was there the faintest whisper that the Queen had neglected this duty. Whatever her public engagements or private recreation, she spent some hours each day on memoranda from ministers, minutes of Cabinet meetings, Hansard reports of debates in both Houses of Parliament, Foreign Office telegrams to and from ambassadors overseas, reports of the governors-general of Commonwealth countries (for she was also Queen of Canada, Australia and more than a dozen other independent states, the number varying throughout her reign), and reading newspapers and letters. And whenever she went on tour, her red boxes followed her.

Compared with her immediate predecessors, the Queen used her influence sparingly and without either personal or political bias: Queen Victoria had been relentless in obstructing Liberal measures and scarcely less alert when the Tories were in office; King Edward VII was an irascible inquisitor on military and diplomatic questions; King George V tireless in keeping ministers of all parties on their toes, even in matters of dress and deportment. King George VI, overshadowed throughout the Second World War by Winston Churchill, was left scarcely any exercise of the prerogative except in the habitual royal playground of uniforms, medals and decorations; nor, when a Labour administration took office in 1945, could he always conceal the prejudices of a Tory country gentleman.

The Queen's relationship with her prime ministers, except in her role as Head of the Commonwealth, was less agitated. By temperament she was disinclined to make nagging challenges to this or that aspect of political belief, more attracted by personalities than by policies, by what the historian FS Oliver called "the endless adventure of governing men".

Even here she acted with caution. A



Obituary



The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh photographed by Patrick Lichfield in 2001, mirroring the image opposite taken by Karsh in 1951

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statement: "The Queen today declared in Council her Will and Pleasure that She and Her Children shall be styled and known as the House and Family of Windsor, and that Her descendants other than female descendants who marry and their descendants shall bear the name of Windsor."

In reaffirming that the name of the Royal family remained Windsor, it departed controversially from the ancient English practice by which children bear the name of their father. Prince Philip found to his dismay that he was fathering a brood not of Mountbattens but of Windsors (though he would have preferred the family name to be Edinburgh rather than Windsor or Mountbatten).

In 1960, however, after "further consideration", and with the approval of a more pliable prime minister, Harold Macmillan, the Queen issued a second declaration replacing the family name of Windsor by that of Mountbatten-Windsor. While removing the slur of the past eight years from Prince Philip, it otherwise served no practical purpose. The new name was to be borne only by those descendants of the Queen "who will enjoy neither the style, title or attributes of Royal Highness, nor the titular dignity of Prince, and for whom a surname will be necessary." The name first materialised with Prince Edward's daughter, Lady Louise Mountbatten-Windsor.

The Queen was again torn between family affection and constitutional duty when in 1953 the 22-year-old Princess Margaret told her sister that she wished to marry Group Captain Peter Townsend, a handsome equestrian with a gallant war record, appointed to the royal household by George VI. However much the Queen cared for Princess Margaret's happiness, there was an obstacle. Townsend had been through the divorce courts, albeit as an "innocent party". The Royal Marriages Act of 1772 still required members of the Royal family to seek the Sovereign's consent before marriage; and Churchill's Cabinet refused to advise the Supreme Governor of the Church of England to sanction a match that flouted the doctrine on divorce and remarriage she had sworn to uphold. That the Princess was third in line of succession to the throne added weight to the decision. Princess Margaret, wrongly advised that if she waited until her 25th birthday she could marry at will, discovered in the summer of 1955 that such a match would still require Cabinet permission.

By then Anthony Eden had succeeded Churchill in No 10. He let it be known that if the Princess persisted in her plan, the government would ask Parliament to pass a Bill depriving her of her right of succession to the throne and her Civil List income. On October 31 1955, amid frenzied publicity, the Princess announced that she had decided not to marry the group captain, "mindful of the Church's teachings that Christian marriage is indissoluble, and conscious of my duty to the Commonwealth".

It did not escape notice that Churchill had championed King Edward VIII's marriage to Mrs Simpson in 1936 or that Eden himself had divorced and remarried, as had other members of both Cabinets. The Queen was unable (and perhaps unwilling) to shield her sister from constitutional

pressures. Such was the custom of the day. Nearly 40 years later, her only daughter was to divorce and remarry, leaving scarcely a ripple – and more marital splits would follow.

Throughout Churchill's last ministry he and the Queen nevertheless established a firm and affectionate accord. Before her Coronation she persuaded him to accept the Order of the Garter, which he had declined on his defeat in 1945, shared with him the joys of owning racehorses and commissioned a bust of him by Oscar Nemon for Windsor Castle. On his reluctant retirement she offered him a dukedom, which he declined. Ten years later she attended his state funeral in St Paul's Cathedral: an extraordinary tribute of a sovereign to a subject (she attended that of Baroness Thatcher in 2013).

Eden's succession in April 1955 was the first of the three occasions on which the Queen was required to exercise her prerogative of choosing a new prime minister; and since Eden had long been Churchill's unchallenged heir apparent, the least difficult. His premiership of less than two years is largely remembered for the Suez adventure that ended in humiliation. The extent of the Queen's concern has never been revealed, nor whether at any stage of the preparations for the invasion of Egypt she counselled caution. It has been alleged that Lord Mountbatten, the then First Sea Lord, used his privileged access to the Palace to warn her of the perils of Eden's policy. There is more solid evidence of a division of opinion among her three private secretaries. The senior, Sir Michael Adeane, approved of Eden's enterprise; Sir Edward Ford and Sir Martin Charteris, both of whom had experience of the Middle East, were opposed to it.

Whatever anguish the Queen may have suffered to see Britain isolated and the unity of the Commonwealth shattered, she received Eden's resignation on the grounds of ill health in January 1957 with regret and compassion. The duty of finding a new prime minister proved more testing than in 1955 and the outcome took the nation by surprise. Two candidates dominated the field: RA Butler, chancellor of the exchequer, and Harold Macmillan, the foreign secretary. On Eden's recommendation, the Queen asked Lord Salisbury, Lord Privy Seal, leader of the Lords and at 63 already an elder statesman, to take soundings in Cabinet. His interrogation has passed into political history with a much-imitated impediment of speech, he inquired: "Well", which is it, Wab or Hawold?

It produced an overwhelming majority in favour of Macmillan; Butler secured at best three votes, perhaps only one. Churchill and one or two other Tory grandees who were consulted also endorsed Macmillan.

The Queen's decision to invite Macmillan to form an administration nevertheless took the nation by surprise and evoked a measure of resentment. It is probable that a majority of backbenchers and party members would have preferred Butler, in spite of his advocacy of appeasement in the 1930s and his lack of robustness during Suez. But they had been given no opportunity to say so. Had not Butler displayed exceptional loyalty to his more cunning rival by accepting a place in the new government – which was not

even that of foreign secretary, the post he craved – Macmillan's hour of triumph could have been short-lived. As it was, the prime minister remained "at the top of the greasy pole" for the next six years. The Queen was not to be allowed so easy a passage when next she exercised her prerogative on his resignation in 1963.

Throughout his premiership, Macmillan took pains to keep the Queen informed, preparing an elaborate agenda for their weekly meetings. He corresponded copiously, leavening affairs of state with historical anecdote and drollery. The Queen responded as fully as was required, writing letters and envelopes in her own hand. There were many exchanges about the Commonwealth, including the prime minister's portentous warning to the South African government that "the wind of change is blowing through this continent". The Queen is thought to have been equally appreciative of his home policy in pursuit of "the middle way", a consistent theme of his long political life. Himself a devout high churchman, he acknowledged the Queen's mastery of ecclesiastical niceties.

It was perhaps hidden from him that the Queen found quiet amusement in his readiness to instruct her in the manner of Lord Melbourne, or to persuade with Disraelian flattery. She also possessed the gift of mimicry. A few hours after he had left Balmoral one summer, the entire house party appeared for dinner wearing a comical version of his drooping moustache.

The sudden collapse of Macmillan's health and his impending retirement required the Queen to exercise her prerogative for the third time in October 1963. The task of seeking a successor was more onerous than in either 1955 or 1957, for now there were six contestants: Butler, Hailsham, Heath, Home, Macleod and Maudling. Rather than herself inquire into the degree of support each could command at every level of the Conservative Party, the Queen entrusted those consultations to Macmillan, who had not yet resigned: and seems to have done so at Macmillan's suggestion. Although barely convalescent from an operation on his prostate gland, he relished obeying what he could present as the personal command of his sovereign to handle these proceedings.

In fact, it presented him with an opportunity for Trollopian intrigue on a grand scale, and allowed him, effectively, to choose his successor while dressing up the procedure in what would soon come to be highly questionable constitutional practice. Elaborate inquiries carried out at his behest by senior colleagues, supported by statistics that have been the subject of controversy ever since, persuaded him that the foreign secretary, the 14th Earl of Home, was the party's "preponderant first choice". The Queen came to see him in hospital, where he read to her his conclusions and formally resigned office.

A few hours later she invited Lord Home to form a government. Having succeeded in uniting some but not all the contestants, he kissed hands as prime minister, divested himself of his peerage under a recent and exceptionally convenient Act of Parliament and some weeks afterwards was elected to an equally convenient seat in the Commons. In choosing a new prime minister able to command a

majority in the Commons, the Queen had fulfilled her constitutional duty. There the matter might have ended.

But there were complaints that in preferring Home to Butler, who was thought to enjoy wider support in the constituencies, Macmillan's advice to the Queen had been tainted by personal animus. As a result, the argument continued, the Queen had selected as prime minister a party leader less well qualified than Butler to win the next general election. One respected historian of the Left, Ben Pimlott, wrote in his life of the Queen (1996) that "it was the biggest political misjudgment of her reign".

Yet the only alternative for the Queen would have been to descend into the political arena as a partisan; to weigh Butler's experience against his irresolution, Hailsham's intellect against his volatile temperament, Home's antipathy to economics against his skill as a diplomatist.

In any case, the Queen's acceptance of Macmillan as her sole source of advice need not have been the end of the matter. Had Butler refused to serve under Home, he might well have displaced him at No 10. But he chose not to fight and lost the day.

What seems to have outraged Pimlott was not so much the Queen's entire dependence on Macmillan for advice as the advice itself. Had he recommended Butler rather than a 14th earl, not a dog would have barked. As it was, secrecy and intrigue discredited the system itself. In future the Queen would dispense with her royal prerogative (though keeping it in reserve for use on such rare occasions as a hung parliament). Instead, Conservatives and Labour alike openly elected a new leader, to whom the Queen entrusted the formation of a new government.

Traditionalists deplored this further erosion of royal power; realists recognised that by relieving the sovereign of a controversial decision, it strengthened the monarchy. One myth which pursued the Queen was that she had accepted Macmillan's advice with enthusiasm because she felt a personal affinity with Sir Alec Douglas-Home (as he was known after divesting himself of his earldom). It is true that they were both Scottish landowners of ancient lineage with a shared interest in country pursuits and that personal drift which so often affects the very rich.

But the Queen was scarcely aware of the social gradations that teased and tormented her subjects. The birth and background of any prime minister were, to her mind, irrelevant. What did command him to her were his dignity, modesty and simplicity, and the sincerity he had brought to his former office of foreign secretary.

HER FIRST LABOUR GOVERNMENT

Douglas-Home's loss of the general election of 1964, albeit by a whisker, brought to power the first Labour government of the reign and the Queen's first prime minister who had been educated at neither Eton nor Harrow. Politically impartial and free from class-consciousness, she rapidly established a comfortable



PATRICK LICHFIELD/KARSH OF OTTAWA/CAMERA PRESS

relationship with Wilson that continued throughout his years at No 10. Like many of those from a working- or lower-middle-class background, he displayed a robust loyalty to the Crown that contrasted with the cool detachment of the ancient aristocracy.

At the first weekly audience, the Queen caught him out on a detail of some state paper that she had read and he had not. Thereafter he never ceased to recognise the value of her judgment, the depth of her experience in public policy and what Bagehot called the sovereign's "well-considered inaction". He also admitted that the Queen was the only working colleague to whom he could take his problems without feeling that she might be sharpening a knife for his back – such was the brotherly love he encountered in Cabinet.

Claiming an intimacy denied to her other prime ministers, he used the Queen's name and beliefs in ways that strained convention. During the protracted struggle with Ian Smith, Wilson caused the Queen to write a letter to the Rhodesian prime minister in her own hand reminding him of his binding allegiance to the Crown. That was constitutionally permissible. But Wilson went further. He declared that his government's policy reflected "the specific authority and approval of Her Majesty herself". To reveal what purported to be the Queen's personal opinions was dangerous, undermining as it did her political neutrality.

Wilson again invoked the Queen's name when, a few days after his 60th birthday in March 1976, he surprised the nation by announcing his retirement long before his second ministry had run its course. To dispel rumours of some sudden improvidence in his life, he disclosed that he had warned the Queen of his intention six months earlier, not in formal audience but during a picnic at Balmoral.

Between Wilson's two terms at No 10, 1964–70 and 1974–76, the prime minister was Edward Heath. Having led the Conservatives to an unexpected victory at the general election of 1970, he fell from power four years later after a bitter dispute with the miners. Springing from the same social class as Wilson, he failed to establish anything like the same rapport with his Sovereign. Always reserved with women, he was respectful but cool; and the Queen for her part resented his near contempt for the Commonwealth and most of its African leaders.

In 1973 he attempted to deflect her from attending the Commonwealth conference in Ottawa; but as Head of the Commonwealth she felt able to disregard his advice. The Speaker of the Commons, Selwyn Lloyd, wrote in his diary that at a diplomatic reception at Buckingham Palace the Queen told him how much she disliked the government's restrictions on immigration that had affected a member of her staff. "I told the prime minister just what I thought," she confided. Nor did the Queen warn to Heath's pursuit of European union or his clumsy handling of trade union disputes.

On Wilson's retirement, it was the ballot box of the Parliamentary Labour Party rather than the Queen's prerogative that propelled James Callaghan to Downing Street. Elected leader by 176 votes to Michael Foot's 133, he

required no more than her formal endorsement before taking up office.

Callaghan, the only man to have held the four great posts of chancellor of the exchequer, home secretary, foreign secretary and prime minister, could touch a more sentimental chord in the Queen's heart. He had held a wartime commission in the Navy, and his father had served for 10 years as an able seaman in the old Royal Yacht Victoria and Albert.

On the death of Sir Robert Menzies in 1978, the Queen offered him the honorific appointment of Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, with Walmer Castle as his official residence. But he feared it could be a financial burden and suggested it should go to Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother; she accepted with enthusiasm, and for the rest of her life wore it as stylishly as a feather in her hat.

Unable to curb the trade unions on whom he had depended for his political muscle or to mitigate the "winter of discontent" they imposed on the nation, Callaghan was defeated at the general election of 1979 by Margaret Thatcher, who four years earlier had succeeded Edward Heath as leader of the Conservative Party.

Baroness Thatcher wrote in her memoirs of the Queen's "grasp of current issues and breadth of experience". Her encomium continued: "Although the press could not resist the temptation to suggest disputes between the Palace and Downing Street, especially on Commonwealth affairs, I always found the Queen's attitude towards the work of the government absolutely correct."

The new prime minister, for her part, was equally punctilious: indeed, in contrast to her brusqueness at the negotiating table, deferential to a degree.

No subject ever curtsied more deeply to her sovereign or was more assiduous in showing respect. At one public ceremony Mrs Thatcher was embarrassed because her outfit closely resembled that of the Queen. Afterwards No 10 discreetly inquired of the Palace whether there was any way in which the prime minister could be advised of the Queen's choice of clothes. The reply was both reassuring and dismissive: "Do not worry. The Queen does not notice what other people are wearing."

But with all its formality, their relationship was the least comfortable of the reign. Some put it down to an inevitable tension between two able, strong-minded women; others to a Gladstonian earnestness that provoked a Victorian antipathy. There is also evidence that the Queen, like other rich landowners with tender conscience – what in the Conservative Party came to be called the "Wets" – was dismayed by the perceived harshness of Mrs Thatcher's reforming zeal. Above all, the Queen was affronted by the prime minister's unconcealed dislike of the Commonwealth.

A voluntary association of some 50 independent states, almost all of which had once been part of the British Empire, it was an ingenious device to exorcise the ghost of imperialism. As Head of the Commonwealth, the Queen remained sovereign of 17 overseas territories, including Canada and Australia, and a welcome visitor to all, monarchies and republics alike. Naturally enough she

cherished her role. At home she was a hard-worked constitutional monarch; abroad she was Gloriana, hung with garlands, saluted with spears, fed on suckling pig.

As long as Commonwealth conferences remained no more than family reunions, the nation marvelled at the respect and affection she inspired around the globe. But constitutional purists like Enoch Powell deplored the ambiguity in which she was placed: obliged to accept the advice of her responsible ministers yet under pressure from a cabal of Commonwealth republics to act otherwise.

Margaret Thatcher shared his misgivings. She minded that the Queen of the United Kingdom, whom she held in genuine reverence, should head an unconstitutional and sometimes hostile world bloc; that its self-assured secretary-general should be housed in a former royal residence a stone's throw from Buckingham Palace; that its economic demands should complicate Britain's foreign policy, not least on entry into Europe.

She had been in Downing Street for no more than six months when she weakened a cultural link with Commonwealth countries by imposing higher fees on overseas students than those paid by British undergraduates. More violent collisions followed, none of which can have failed to dismay the Head of the Commonwealth.

In 1979 the Thatcher government opposed economic sanctions against Ian Smith's illegal government in Rhodesia; and in 1986 again provoked widespread Commonwealth condemnation by its reluctance to impose sanctions on South Africa, still under the rule of apartheid. Both Queen and prime minister kept their counsel, but their supposed differences were common knowledge.

Only once was the Queen thought to have shown an excess of enthusiasm for her Commonwealth role, and that inadvertently. In 1983 she devoted her annual Christmas Day broadcast (for which she neither sought nor was expected to seek ministerial advice) to the economic role of the Commonwealth and the need for more technology. Many of her British subjects thought it an inadequate substitute for the familiar story of Christ's birth and its tidings of comfort and joy.

The broadcast also caused dismay by including several minutes of her filmed conversation with perhaps the most controversial of Commonwealth prime ministers, Indira Gandhi, who had once resorted to ruling India by martial law yet was shortly to fight a general election endorsed, it seemed, by the Head of the Commonwealth herself.

The remaining years of the reign were punctuated by Commonwealth tremors: occasional demands for a republic in Australia, though a referendum to establish one was defeated in 1999; brutality by the rulers of Nigeria that outraged even the undemanding standards of other African states; and ill-judged attempts by Britain to prompt a settlement of the Kashmir dispute between India and Pakistan.

Never again, however, after Margaret Thatcher's enforced retirement in 1990 was the Head of the Commonwealth to feel a chill wind blowing from Downing Street. There was an irony in the fact that the Queen's

finances came under increasing public scrutiny during John Major's premiership – chiefly notable for the ignominious financial crisis when he had to ring the Palace to announce that Britain was leaving the Exchange Rate Mechanism, declaring that not to do so "would be like King Canute".

The fire at Windsor Castle and the subsequent announcement that the Queen would begin to pay tax, as well as the announcements of the separation, and subsequently the divorce, of the Prince and Princess of Wales added to the difficulties of the period. More happily, it was during his government that the VE-Day celebrations led to the largest gathering of foreign leaders in London since the war.

According to his press secretary, Alastair Campbell, Tony Blair found his weekly meeting with the Queen "the one regular thing that he does that he really looks forward to", though he conceded that he had no idea of what happened during their encounters.

This did not prevent speculation, expanded in 2006 to the length of a feature film for which Helen Mirren won an Oscar for her portrayal of the Queen. It focused on the relationship between the Palace and Downing Street during the days immediately after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, at the beginning of Blair's time in office.

Though many of the details in the film were wrong, and some of the actors miscast, it showed the Queen coming to terms with the death of the Princess of Wales, and the strange change in the mood of the country that had occurred following Blair's rise to power.

In reality, the Queen agreed to address the nation and conceded that the Union flag could be flown at half-mast on Buckingham Palace – just as, at the time of the Coronation, her advisers had insisted that the ceremony not be televised, but were eventually persuaded that the public would expect it.

Meanwhile, the New Labour government's unpopularity with the rural population, particularly over the banning of hunting, also caused some concern at the Palace. But there was one indication of where the power in the relationship continued to lie. In 2001 the Downing Street briefing room heard that the prime minister had spoken to the Queen about "the Golden Jubilee", to be rebuked with the correction: "My Golden Jubilee".

Further prime ministers followed – the taciturn Gordon Brown taking over from Blair in 2007 and surviving until 2010. Then came David Cameron, at first in coalition with the Liberals and then on his own with a sweeping majority only to be felled by the Brexit referendum in 2016. Theresa May struggled gamely to deliver Brexit between 2016 and 2019, and ultimately conceded defeat.

Came Boris Johnson, with his controversial political past and unconventional private life. The Queen was even obliged to entertain Johnson's girlfriend Carrie Symonds – before his divorce had been settled – on his 2019 visit to Balmoral, on the grounds that she might appear old-fashioned if she did not.

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Obituary

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PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LIVES

The Queen, happiest when at Windsor or her private residences of Sandringham and Balmoral, was not wedded to a life of luxury. But she was proud of her historic possessions at Buckingham Palace and Windsor, of which she regarded herself as a trustee, and entertained with a panache worthy of the first Queen Elizabeth. When a household official apologised on the morning after a state banquet that it was difficult to keep the food hot when using gold plates, the Queen replied: "My guests come here not for hot food but to eat off gold plate."

As the host to overseas visitors, the Queen won intense admiration from Whitehall as an instrument of foreign policy, gifted with exceptional diplomatic talents. She and the government were deemed ahead of the public mood when she received President Heuss in 1958, the first German head of state to be welcomed since the Kaiser in 1907. There was the Japanese Emperor Hirohito in 1971, whom Mountbatten refused to meet at the Queen's state banquet; and the tyrant President Ceausescu of Romania in 1978 (convinced that his rooms in Buckingham Palace were bugged, he led his entourage into the garden each morning for a secret conclave). Idi Amin of Uganda was entertained to lunch in 1971.

A broad, the Queen was welcomed with something approaching ecstasy, particularly in countries that had dispensed with their own monarchies. During one state visit to France, she happened to mention to her hosts in the Louvre that she had never seen the Mona Lisa. Within minutes, two attendants staggered in with the picture, which they exhibited on bended knees. Rarely did she meet with courtesy. The King of Morocco kept her waiting for an hour in a torrid desert while he lounged in his air-conditioned caravan; and even India forgot good manners in retaliation for inept remarks on Kashmir by a British foreign secretary who accompanied Her Majesty. The Queen, professional that she was, took it in her stride.

In all her public engagements, whether at home or abroad, the Queen was dignified yet friendly, serious yet, as her Olympic adventure in 2012 would show, not lacking in humour. This last quality could sometimes be elusive, however, for in repose her face could seem severe, even glum. But those who met her face to face never forgot either the beauty of her complexion or the crinkling of the eyes that heralded a dry little joke. "Hooley!" she mimicked with a smile, "I saw it coming!" she said. "I was grateful it was only an egg."

When a spectator at Trooping the Colour in 1981 pointed a pistol at her and fired six times, the Queen controlled her horse and rode on. She was not to know they were blank cartridges. Even when her appearances were free from the unexpected, they imposed a discipline. Her private secretary, Sir Michael Adeane, told a House of Commons select committee: "All these engagements are enjoyable - and there are many who would welcome the opportunity of attending them. But for the Queen, who can never enjoy them with the freedom of a holiday maker, the pleasure of attending them is bound to be tempered by the strain imposed on her as a public figure and by the knowledge that somebody is looking at her all the time and that she is being continually photographed, filmed and televised as well."

Patriotic demands of the Second World War had shattered the convention that the Sovereign should be as closely protected from the common touch in public as in private, meeting only local grandees and a carefully rehearsed artisan or two. By the time of her Silver Jubilee in 1977, it had become common practice for the Queen to abandon the traditional red carpet and to go on foot through the crowds, with here and there a little chat over the shopping-basket. She had come to *Coronation Street* and affability had displaced some of the magic of monarchy.

The Queen appeared to enjoy these encounters. They taught her a practical lesson, too. When in 1982 a mentally unbalanced intruder climbed into her bedroom at Buckingham Palace, she remained calm. After a scandalous breakdown in security, a chambermaid eventually arrived and the man was ejected. The Queen later said: "It was easier for me than it would have been for others. I am used to talking to strangers."

Another link with her subjects which she valued was the annual Christmas broadcast. The simple message by which King George V had reached out into the hearts of "all my peoples throughout the Empire" gradually gave way to an elaborate television programme illustrated by film clips and presented by the Queen as Head of the Commonwealth. The first two private secretaries of the reign, Sir Alan Lascelles and Sir Michael Adeane, wished to discontinue the broadcasts: radio talks because they were becoming monotonous, TV because their intimacy destroyed the mystique of monarchy.

The Queen took time to learn the art and did not enjoy it. But she felt it her duty to continue, and that was the end of the matter. Publicity feeds upon itself. In 1969 Lord Mountbatten persuaded the Queen to authorise the making of the film *Royal Family*, which invited the world to peer through the keyholes of every royal residence, to eavesdrop on the small change of Royal family conversation. Other such productions followed. It was but a step from the licensed viewer to the unlicensed voyeur, from Cecil Beaton to the paparazzi. By the last decade of the century the Queen's breakfast table proclaimed day by day the indiscretions of younger members of her family, sometimes with their own connivance.

Yet meeting her subjects was the aspect of her role which the Queen thought most important, above all at the investitures, before which she briefed herself thoroughly on the background and achievements of those upon whom she bestowed honours and awards.

The Queen occupied four substantial houses with enjoyment, migrating from one to another throughout the seasons with those snipe-like movements that PG Wodehouse attributed to an earlier Elizabeth. "It is impossible to move a cushion from one chair to another," a courtier observed, "without her noticing it." Her aesthetic tastes were limited, but to the incomparable royal collections she did add pictures by some of the safer of her near contemporaries: Graham Sutherland, LS Lowry, Roger de Grey, Ivon Hitchens. As Queen of Australia she hung paintings by William Dobell, Rex Battarbee, Russell Drysdale and Sidney Nolan. In all such enterprises the late disgraced Anthony Blunt offered expert guidance.

In 1962 the opening of the Queen's Gallery, reconstructed out of the bomb-damaged private chapel at Buckingham Palace, enabled the public to view the royal

treasures. It was later redesigned by the architect John Simpson and adorned with a Homeric frieze, and a remarkable bust of the Queen, both by the neo-classical sculptor Alexander Stoddart. At the beginning of her reign, the royal collections were cared for by five people, at the end by more than 700. Her custodianship and willingness to share these treasures with the world were greatly to her credit.

The Queen rarely had time to read a book and seemed positively to dislike commemorative concerts and gala performances of opera and ballet. A minister of the Crown who accompanied her on one such occasion and happened to be in attendance again a few nights later, jauntily expressed the hope that she had "got through it all right". She replied sharply: "Not so loud." He liked to think that Her Majesty was joking.

Instead, the Queen's pleasures were those of a countrywoman. Having cleared her red boxes of papers, she was out on the hill at Balmoral or riding across the flatter landscape of Sandringham. Never gregarious, she delighted in the company of horses and dogs. Those pastimes were often misunderstood. Although she devoted a whole week of the year to Royal Ascot and annually attended the Epsom Derby, her interest lay more in the breeding and conformation of her racehorses and their performance on the gallop. These she could analyse with the authority and knowledge of any trainer. She looked to her stud to make a profit. Lord Carnarvon, her racing manager, was also one of her few intimate friends.

With the agility of a crossword addict, the Queen liked to name her yearlings. Thus a colt by Red Ransom out of Turn to Money she called Dick Turpin; one by Generous out of Starlet became Give and Take; another by Halo out of Joking Apart was named St Boniface (the patron saint of clowns). Throughout her reign, newspaper cartoonists had a field day with the Queen's pack of corgis, ill-tempered and predatory. Scarcely ever mentioned was her success in breeding and training black Labrador gun dogs, to which she brought an affectionate rapport.

Some of those interests more than paid for themselves; certainly they were less expensive than her husband's shooting and carriage driving or her eldest son's polo and hunting. The Queen was frugal and her housekeeper's eye hated to see waste. She checked her bills, item by item. Her Christmas presents to friends and courtiers were so modest as to become a household joke.

That the Queen's marriage to Prince Philip radiated content for more than 70 years owed much to the restraint and insight of each: more perhaps to the Queen than to her sometimes impatient and irascible husband. He must have realised when he married the daughter of an ailing Sovereign that his own career in the Royal Navy could not continue for long. He was nevertheless resentful when obliged to retire in 1951, and not at all mollified by the rank of Admiral of the Fleet bestowed on him after his wife's accession.

Nor at first did he take well to the role of royal consort that excluded him from all but ceremonial duties. Antipathy persisted between the Prince and senior courtiers; they thought him brash and un-cooperative, he thought them fossilised.

Although created a Prince of the United Kingdom, he did not become Prince Consort nor did he seek to do so. The Prince's manner could make him seem ungracious and acerbic, particularly towards the press. Nor was the Queen herself spared reproof, even in the hearing of officials. She, however, seemed unmoved, recognising that at heart he was her rock and her strength - the most devoted of royal consorts. By the end of her reign the British people had taken him to their hearts rather in the manner of a defiantly politically incorrect but much-loved elderly relative. And after his death many were surprised to learn of the breadth of his endeavours and achievements.

FAMILY PROBLEMS

The Queen's family circle, meanwhile, fell well short of the ideals of Christian marriage she herself upheld. Two of her three sons, her only daughter and her only sister dissolved their marriages in the divorce courts, as did her cousin and childhood companion, the Earl of Harewood. Some of her older subjects wondered whether the Supreme Governor of the Church of England, who worshipped each Sunday wherever she happened to be, could not have instilled in her restless brood a stronger commitment to their marriage vows. Others, more worldly-wise, accepted that a national failure of one in three marriages could not reasonably exclude even the most privileged family in the kingdom.

In any case, the Queen had neither the time nor the interfering temperament to act as peacemaker. She could but prescribe patience and understanding: the aspirin, as it were, of marital guidance. It was not enough. The first of her children to marry was Princess Anne, later to become the Princess Royal, a woman of strong character who as president of Save the Children Fund earned acclaim for her tours of inspection in the poorer parts of Africa and Asia. She married in 1973 a fellow equestrian, the Olympic gold medallist Captain Mark Phillips, to whom she bore a son and a daughter. Some of his bride's family affected not to find him as clever as themselves, though he became articulate on any matter equestrian. They were divorced without acrimony in 1992, when the Princess married Captain (now Vice-Admiral Sir) Timothy Laurence RN, a former equerry to the Queen.

Prince Andrew, Duke of York, a naval officer who had served in the Falklands campaign, married in 1986 Sarah Ferguson, daughter of the Prince of Wales's polo manager. She was well-enough born for a modern royal marriage, though too high-spirited and indiscreet for traditionalists. The victim of tabloid journalists and paparazzi, who more than once sneaked photographs of her in compromising situations, she separated from her husband in 1992 and they divorced in 1996. But they remained good friends. Prince Edward's marriage in 1999 to the public relations executive Sophie Rhys-Jones did, happily, prove lasting.

It was the marriage of the Prince of Wales to the arrestingly beautiful Lady Diana Spencer in 1981 that ultimately inflicted damage on the monarchy. "Here is the stuff of which fairy tales are made," the Archbishop of Canterbury claimed at their wedding in St Paul's Cathedral. The words were to haunt him to the end of his days.

Diana could not adjust to a life lived in a worldwide glare of publicity. She was also unsettled by the belief that her husband had never ceased to love Camilla Parker Bowles, the wife of an officer in the Household Cavalry. Misery gave way to despair and so to threats of suicide.

Prince Charles, bewildered by his wife's emotional turmoil, could neither share her fondness for pop culture nor demonstrate the affection for which she yearned. He wrote to a friend from the Royal Yacht Britannia: "Diana dashes about chatting up all the sailors and the cooks while I remain hermit-like on the veranda deck, sunk with pure joy into one of Laurens van der Post's books." It was the second day of their honeymoon. After the birth of their two children, the marital dispute became public knowledge. Each resorted to the media with their grievances. With her connivance, the Princess's friends fed Andrew Morton with disobliging tales about the Prince for his book *Diana: Her True Story* (1992). The Prince returned the compliment by

co-operating all too openly with Jonathan Dimbleby, author of *The Prince of Wales: a Portrait* (1994).

Both the Prince and Princess also made separate arrangements to be interviewed on television, during which each confessed to having committed adultery. The humiliation at last stung the Queen to intervene. She ordered them to divorce. The formalities were completed in 1996.

That was far from the end of the tragic saga. In the following year Diana, Princess of Wales (as she was styled after divorce), died in a car crash in Paris, together with Dodi Fayed, son of Mohamed Fayed, the much disliked owner of Harrods. Her death evoked widespread, near-hysterical sorrow. Not all the mourners were content to lay flowers outside Kensington Palace in tribute to her beauty and compassion. They demanded a public demonstration of grief by the Queen.

In a funeral address from the pulpit of Westminster Abbey, the Prince's brother, Earl Spencer, castigated the values of the Queen and her family before a television audience of many millions and contrasted "the imaginative and loving way" in which she was bringing up the two young princes with the "duty and tradition" - he made them sound more like vices than virtues - instilled into them by their father.

They were hurtful words from a godson of the Queen. They were nevertheless loudly applauded. It was much discussed during that traumatic week and after whether the Queen could have done more to save the marriage. Prince Philip certainly intervened sympathetically. Such an approach, however, demanded rational discussion, goodwill, an acceptance of advice. Neither party to the marriage was prepared to compromise.

The Princess shrank from a family she thought cold and unfeeling. The Prince, for his part, had grown apart from a preoccupied mother and an overbearing father who, his son maintained, had pushed him into marriage with Lady Diana against his better judgment.

The Prince harboured earlier resentments. A kind, gentle and polite child, he was deeply bruised by the bullying he had endured at Gordonstoun. In reply to his pleas for help, his father had simply told him to grin and bear it - the habitual reply of generations of small boys at public schools. Neither parent perhaps had responded with the creative sympathy required to intervene discreetly on his behalf while preserving the schoolboy code of honour.

The Prince would also suffer the traditional discontent of any king-in-waiting, with little prospect of assuming the role for which he had been trained until he was beyond pensionable age. With a large independent income from the Duchy of Cornwall, and strongly held, sometimes unorthodox, views on architecture, the environment and education, he became wilful and impatient of restraint from both his mother's advisers and his own.

Co-operation between the households barely existed. Only by chance in 1985 did the Queen discover that her son, about to pay a visit to the Vatican, proposed to attend the Pope's Mass in his private chapel (though not to take Communion). The Supreme Governor of the Church of England thought this gesture of ecumenism untimely. At her command the engagement was cancelled.

In 1998 she was horrified when it was reported that the Prince of Wales would be "privately delighted" if his mother were to abdicate; the Prince was telephoned in Bulgaria and required to apologise. This was typical of relations between Buckingham Palace and St James's Palace, the press offices of which seemed positively to delight in leaking stories to the discredit of the other.

On one issue, the Prince of Wales managed to have his way: public hostility towards Camilla Parker Bowles diminishing sufficiently for the couple to marry in 2005. Despite the Queen's reservations - springing from her role as Supreme Governor of the Church of England - about his remarriage, she attended the service of blessing (though not the civil ceremony that preceded it).

Nor, for her part, did the Queen confide in her son even on matters for which he would one day be responsible: a sad loss of inherited experience. It was another facet of the Queen's inscrutable personality. Sir Martin Charteris confessed in old age that after 27 years in her service he still could not always be sure what she was thinking.

ANNUS HORRIBILIS

The marital difficulties of her children were not the only burden the Queen had to bear in the fourth decade of her reign. The cumulative misfortunes of 1992 led Her Majesty, prompted by a courtier with a command of Latin, to call it her annus horribilis: the most famous bon mot of the reign. In November a large part of Windsor Castle was destroyed by fire: a crushing enough disaster for any home owner, whether Queen or commoner. And when the government rashly promised to bear the entire cost of restoration, estimated at between £20 million and £40 million, there was an explosion of public anger against supposed royal extravagance.

Six days later the prime minister, John Major, said that from April 1993 the Queen would pay tax on her private income. The decision, he said, was that of the Queen herself and had been agreed in principle with the Inland Revenue several months earlier. But the statement sounded defensive and the government's expression of gratitude lukewarm. A deplorable failure of public relations led even monarchists to accept that the Queen's financial sacrifice was a gesture of appeasement to the press. Nor did the Conservative government adequately thank the Queen when she ensured that Windsor Castle be restored to its former glory at no additional cost to the taxpayer.

Some £26 million was raised by opening the state rooms of Buckingham Palace to the public each August and September, and to the precincts of Windsor throughout the year. The remaining £11 million came from savings within the annual Treasury grant for the upkeep of royal palaces.

Five years to the day after the fire, the Queen celebrated her golden wedding anniversary in the Castle to acclamation. In 2007, the diamond anniversary of her marriage was marked by a service in Westminster Abbey, after which the Queen and the Duke spent a night in Malta, where they had stayed after their wedding, on their way to a Commonwealth Conference in Kampala.

In truth, the Queen had never been free from an unfriendly scrutiny of her finances by Parliament and press, even from the moment of her marriage. The annual Civil List (or official income) voted on her accession was £475,000. In 1971, with inflation running at about five per cent a year, she was obliged to ask for it to be doubled. Four years later the amount necessary for her to maintain the trappings of monarchy had risen to £1.4 million; and so on throughout the reign. Other members of her family were voted lesser sums.

The Queen's own secretariat, as small as it was efficient, continued to make household economies, but never enough to silence taunts of profligacy. Twenty years into the reign, a persistent Labour critic complained that the Queen Mother's Civil List had just been raised by 35 per cent. He omitted to mention that during the same period his own parliamentary salary had more than quadrupled; or that a new car park for MPs at Westminster had cost more than twice the Queen's then Civil List.

There were nevertheless brusque suggestions that to

meet any deficit in her budget, the Queen should dip into her private investments on which (until 1993) she was required to pay neither income tax nor capital gains tax. This indeed she did, not least in supporting other members of the family who carried out royal engagements. She also gave the Duchess of Windsor a pension of £5,000 a year from the Duke's death in 1972 until the Duchess died in 1986. Whatever the Queen spent was largely to enhance her royal role. That did not save her from groundless imputations of extravagance. Even after she had voluntarily agreed to pay tax on her private investments (with certain exemptions), a tabloid apostrophised her on its front page as: "HM THE TAX DODGER."

Even moderate MPs declared, not unreasonably, that they would find it easier to decide the size of her personal fortune, swollen as it was by increased dividends and tax exemptions over the years. The Queen, exercising the same right to privacy as her subjects, refused. Lacking the true figures, estimates in the popular press soared to billions of pounds by including the supposed value of the royal collections: pictures, books, furniture, silver, postage stamps and other works of art, not omitting the Crown Jewels.

In vain the Palace insisted that these were never hers to sell; and that when shown to the paying public, the Queen received not a penny; it was instead destined for the upkeep of the royal collections. It was debated again and again whether the Queen should retain, at taxpayers' expense, her own yacht, her own aircraft, her own train. Compared with the astronomical expenditure of the state, they were minuscule sums. The ultimate target of so many critics, however, was not royal extravagance but the monarchy itself.

GOLDEN YEARS

The year of the Golden Jubilee, 2002, was marred by the deaths of Princess Margaret and, seven weeks later, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, great personal blows for the Queen. Despite this, it represented a crucial turning point in the fortunes of the monarchy. The outpouring of popular sentiment which followed the Queen Mother's death, and the enthusiasm for the Jubilee itself, served to confound those who felt that public support for the monarchy was waning.

That June, more than a million people gathered in the Mall for the celebrations; street parties were enthusiastically organised up and down the country, beacons were lit and over the course of the year, every corner of the country received a visit from the Sovereign.

One other effect was to establish the Queen, in her eighth decade, in an unchallenged position as the matriarch of her family, the nation, and the Commonwealth. The Palace's accomplished handling of the events of that year demonstrated - as had the Queen's immediate statements after the terrorist attacks on New York the previous year - that lessons had been learnt from the period after the Princess of Wales's death.

It was, moreover, poignant that Westminster Abbey, which had witnessed that untimely funeral, should have seen the marriage of the Queen's grandson Prince William to Catherine Middleton 14 years later. The cheering of the crowds on that spring day in 2011 expressed the people's renewed optimism about the future of the monarchy, embodied in the new Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. The birth of the Duke and Duchess's children Prince George, in 2013, Princess Charlotte, in 2015, and Prince Louis in 2018, not only re-energised the monarchy but enabled the Queen to visualise its future into the 22nd century.

Even in her ninth decade the Queen was still accumulating historic firsts, notably in her state visit to Ireland in 2011 when she became the first reigning British monarch to visit the Republic for 100 years. After a century of tension, the Queen's arrival in Dublin signified the normalisation of relations between the two countries.

In 2012 she celebrated her Diamond Jubilee. An estimated one and a half million people gathered in the Mall for the celebrations. That part of the festivities should have consisted of a pop concert, with the ska band Madness performing *Our House* from the top of Buckingham Palace, was evidence enough of the monarchy's adaptability. If tradition and ceremonial had proved flexible, the Diamond Jubilee also maintained clear echoes of the past.

Some of the worst weather on record did not deter the Queen, nor did the alternative attraction of the Olympic Torch Relay make any impact on the huge crowds which turned out to greet her, as she criss-crossed the country in a royal progress which began in Leicester in March and came to a triumphant conclusion in the New Forest in July, connecting the monarch in a bond of warmth and affection with her nation - and continuing a tradition observed by her medieval forebears. People stood, often nine or 10 deep, to sing, wave Union flags, cheer and catch a glimpse of that characteristic, sometimes guarded smile, which seemed to suggest that the Queen could not quite believe that such an outpouring of affection and respect was really for her. For she never assumed that public support was hers by right.

During the central weekend of the celebrations in June, street parties - as had marked the Coronation, the Silver Jubilee in 1977 and the Golden Jubilee in 2002 - were enthusiastically held, while towns and villages erupted in a sea of flags, bunting and balloons. More than a million rain-soaked spectators lined the riverbank in London as 1,000 boats assembled from across Britain, the Commonwealth and around the world in a grand Diamond Jubilee Pageant which echoed the magnificent pageant held for King Charles II and Queen Catherine of Braganza in 1692. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh travelled in the Royal Barge that formed the centrepiece of the flotilla, refusing to retreat below deck during the unseasonable cold.

The festivities were only slightly dampened by the news



DANNY LAWSON/WIRE

Elizabeth II on September 9 2015, the day she became Britain's longest reigning monarch, at a carriage window at Waverley Station, Edinburgh

members of the Royal family had been told about her involvement in advance and as Lord Coe, the former head of London 2012, recalled, "when the sequence began, with the corgis racing up what were obviously very familiar stairs, Prince Charles looked at me and began laughing rather nervously, wondering where on earth this was going."

When the film cut to the back of the Queen, the Prince of Wales had "exactly the same reaction" as the rest of the world, which was to assume it was an impersonator: "But the moment she turned around, and everyone realised, 'My God! It really is the Queen!' he began roaring with laughter. As for his sons, they were beside themselves. As she started her descent two voices shouted out in unison behind me, 'Go, Granny!'"

A Diamond Jubilee often marks the last great event of a long reign, but the Queen passed that milestone and went on to further achievements. Another conciliatory trip came in 2015, when she made her first visit to the site of a former concentration camp, at Bergen-Belsen in Germany. Like the Irish before them, the people of Berlin, where the Queen stayed during her visit, gave "Die Queen" a rapturous welcome.

On September 9, she surpassed Queen Victoria to become Britain's longest-reigning monarch. In 2016, she marked her 90th birthday, undertaking a walkabout in Windsor and opening the Queen's Walkway. As part of the festivities, in London on June 12 the Mall was transformed for its largest-ever street party, the Patron's Lunch, celebrating her patronage of more than 600 charities.

From time to time the tabloids ran a variation on their staple themes of royal avarice and misbehaviour: that the Queen was considering abdication in favour of the Prince of Wales, or even of his elder son, Prince William.

Such rumours were misguided. When Elizabeth II swore her Coronation Oath in 1953 to uphold law, justice and the Protestant Church, it included no contract of employment guaranteeing her retirement at 60 – or at any other age – with pension, free medical care and bus pass. And, unlike European monarchs, she was an anointed Queen. She had dedicated herself for life.

Her faith was central. She took her role as Head of the Church of England seriously and did not question her beliefs in the way that Prince Philip did. Unlike Princess Margaret, who was High Anglican and liked early Holy Communion, the Queen preferred matins. She was keen that services should last no longer than 40 minutes, and listened to the sermon with the same interest she gave to all information presented to her. Her motto was "Do your best every day, and say your prayers at night."

The Queen and her family were also subjected to something which would have been unthinkable in the early years of the reign: they appeared in 40 episodes of the Netflix series *The Crown*, where veracity gave way to drama.

The lavish production was so widely viewed that it made the Queen globally visible, her fictional persona entering the consciousness of many who might otherwise not have reflected on her story. Claire Foy caught the younger

Elizabeth's personality with some sympathy; Olivia Colman played her in later life as glum, with downturned smile.

Subtle concessions were made to the advancing years. The Queen gave up international travel, she took fewer investitures. She drove to the Garter ceremony instead of walking, and latterly took to using a walking stick at engagements. It could have been hoped that these later years would have offered well-deserved serenity to a dutiful monarch.

But she had to face the divisive issue of Brexit, which caused Cameron and May to step down as prime minister. The health of Prince Philip was a recurring worry during these years. He gave up public duties in August 2017 and largely retired to Wood Farm on the Sandringham estate.

The marriage of Prince Harry to Meghan Markle, an American actress of mixed race, was welcomed by the Royal family, the Queen and Prince Philip attending the somewhat unconventional, but undoubtedly popular, wedding in St George's Chapel in May 2018. The couple became the Duke and Duchess of Sussex on the day.

Sadly, the bride proved unable to fit into royal life, despite the Queen giving the couple important roles in the Commonwealth, to which both had been independently drawn. By 2019, the pair had departed for Canada, soon decamping to Los Angeles, with their new-born child, to renounce their roles as working members of the Royal family and set themselves up independently.

The Queen generously gave them a year to try it out, but they did not return. In 2021 the Duke and Duchess of Sussex gave an interview in California, hinting at racism and a lack of sympathy among unnamed members of the Royal household. The Queen responded with a suitably conciliatory message, stating that the issues raised would be examined in private.

The Queen also witnessed the withdrawal from public life of the Duke of York in 2019. Long accused of an inappropriate association with the disgraced American financier Jeffrey Epstein – and worse – he unwisely submitted to an interview with Emily Maitlis on BBC's *Newsnight*, as a result of which he was treated with derision. His charities deserted him and he announced that he would undertake no further royal engagements.

When in 2021 he was sued in the US by one of the sex offender Epstein's alleged victims for sexual assault, the Queen remained supportive of Prince Andrew. He was, after all, her son, and often described as her favourite son. Though public opinion certainly judged him guilty, it was surely understandable that his mother should have been protective. In a year in which she turned 95, and lost her husband of 73 years, it was stressful to have to face these issues, though the Queen remained resilient.

At the beginning of 2022, however, when Prince Andrew looked likely to be called upon to justify himself in the American courts, the Queen removed his regiments and patronages, and instructed that he no longer use his "HRH". Shortly afterwards he settled the civil law suit against him.

Just as the Brexit negotiations came to a conclusion, the nation had been plunged into lockdown on account of the

alarming spread of Covid-19. The Queen and Prince Philip, both in their 90s, were isolated in what was called "HMS Bubble" at Windsor Castle, to which they retreated in March 2020.

At a grave time of national crisis, the Queen inspired the country with a moving and reassuring broadcast from the castle on April 5. She referred to a broadcast she had made 80 years before from the castle during the Second World War. She assured the nation: "We will meet again." It was a convincing example of the irreplaceable value of a head of state, who had served the nation all her life.

In the summer of 2020 the Queen and Duke were able to visit Balmoral and spend some time at Sandringham, but by Christmas they were again locked down at Windsor Castle. Early the next year the Duke was admitted to hospital in London for what was initially described as precautionary tests. He underwent a procedure on his heart and returned to the castle, where he died peacefully on the morning of April 9.

The Duke's death at 99 was not entirely unexpected. Owing to the continued rules dictated by the pandemic, the Queen accepted the 30 mourners rule for his revised funeral at St George's Chapel and witnessed his descent into the Royal Vault – as she had seen her father, and Queen Mary, laid to rest in 1952 and 1953. She was generally considered to be a lonely figure seated by herself in the choir of the chapel.

A few days after Prince Philip's death, the Queen marked her 95th birthday, issuing a thoughtful message expressing her gratitude for "the support and kindness shown" and how touched she had been to be reminded that Philip had such an extraordinary impact on countless people throughout his life. The Queen had to come to terms with life alone after a marriage of 73 years.

Nevertheless, she soon resumed public life with her habitual stoicism, opening Parliament in a scaled-down, Covid-secure ceremony. During that summer she appeared to flourish, but by the end of 2021 there were hints of mortality, a visit to hospital, and withdrawal from events such as Remembrance Sunday.

No one would have written the script for the Queen in the way it played out as she entered the year of her Platinum Jubilee. She reached that milestone on February 6 2022: 70 years on the throne. But the Duke of York was in trouble, and the Sussexes were pursuing their own path in California, with the first of five books in preparation, judged likely to do as much damage to the Royal family as possible.

The Cambridges paid a visit to several Caribbean islands where their welcome was not as warm as might normally have been expected. And the Queen's health remained indifferent, though the main problem was one of mobility; she retained all her mental sharpness, continuing to work though rarely seen in public.

In March she attended Prince Philip's memorial service in Westminster Abbey – escorted by Prince Andrew – but missed the Commonwealth Observance and the State Opening of Parliament.

Zoom proved a boon. Messages were issued, important

figures received in private. The Queen appeared now to be tying up loose ends and making it easier for her successor. She had already, in 2018, assured his position as future Head of the Commonwealth. She appointed the Duchess of Cornwall to the Order of the Garter, and expressed the wish that Camilla should be Queen in the next reign.

Meanwhile the Queen paced herself to take part, so far as she was able, in the Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

While the Prince of Wales took the Queen's Birthday Parade on Horseguards, the Queen appeared on the balcony of Buckingham Palace with the Duke of Kent to take the salute when her guards marched back.

That evening she lit the first of more than 3,000 beacons in the quadrangle of Windsor Castle. She was then absent from the next celebrations – the service of thanksgiving, and the Derby – while making a stunning "virtual" appearance at the concert, taking tea with Paddington Bear, a light touch which proved abidingly popular.

Unwilling to disappoint, she made the journey to London from Windsor on June 5 to appear on the balcony with the Prince of Wales, the Duchess of Cornwall and the Cambridge family, winding up the proceedings by appearing alongside the next three kings to be.

As ever the Mall was packed from end to end, evidence of the high affection in which the Queen was held. In all this there was perhaps a tinge of sadness, the hint of a swan song, the realisation that the reign could not last indefinitely.

And yet, on she went, like Robert Louis Stevenson's Weir of Hermiston, up the great bare staircase of her duty, to the end. And what a journey it proved to be. Her first prime minister was born in 1874 and had charged at Omdurman in the reign of her great-great-grandmother; her last was born in 1975 a span of more than 100 years. With each she worked in self-effacing harmony; though sometimes manipulated by politicians, yet she was always aloof from the arts and artifices of politics.

She proved the flywheel of our constitution, the guardian of democracy, the architect and inspiration of a Commonwealth that encircled the globe. A hereditary monarchy is a lottery, and in Elizabeth II it gave the nation a winning ticket.

Yet that should not be the last word on the Queen we mourn. She could have displayed all those practical skills while lacking a heart. As it was, her serenity concealed both tenderness and humility.

In a speech to mark her 40th year on the throne, she acknowledged that both people and institutions in public life should not resent criticism – though "that scrutiny, by one part or another, can be just as effective if it is made with a touch of gentleness, good humour and understanding".

"But," she emphasised, "we are all part of the same fabric of our national society."

That was her lodestar in life. It may serve as one of what will be many memorials of her in death.

Queen Elizabeth II, born April 21 1926, died September 8 2022

in drive to energy independence

subsequently said it planned to concrete up its wells near Blackpool but was given a stay of execution when Kwasi Kwarteng, the former business secretary who was this week appointed Chancellor, announced a review of the scientific evidence available.

The Government was unable to say yesterday whether the safety case had changed but the policy about-turn was instead presented as a response to a change in circumstances brought about by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Jacob Rees-Mogg, the new Business Secretary, said resultant chaos in international energy markets, had "exposed the need to strengthen Britain's energy

security for the good of the nation". The about-turn was welcomed by Francis Egan, chief executive of Cuadrilla.

Tom Crotty, director of Ineos, which has lobbied to restart fracking in Britain, said shale had the potential to "transform the energy landscape" in a similar fashion to the US shale boom.

He said: "The US is well protected against the energy crisis as it is making the most of its natural resources. [Shale] can do the same here in the UK."

Ineos said it would invest the value of the first 6pc of gas extracted "back into local communities", while also claiming it would result in a bigger tax take for the Treasury. Mr Crotty said gas "must

be part of" the transition to cleaner energy sources "for at least the next 30 years". The UK has pledged to reach "net zero" carbon emissions by 2050.

"It is patently obvious that we should be using our own gas instead of shipping it from abroad," he said.

However, embarking on a new era of oil and gas extraction will prove controversial. Campaigners in the Frack Free United group have vowed to give energy companies "no peace", with protests against new drilling already planned.

Rosie Rogers, head of oil and gas at Greenpeace UK, said the "drilling frenzy" unveiled by Ms Truss would do nothing to lower energy bills while unleashing

"more heatwaves, droughts and storms on us all" by fuelling climate change.

Brian Mullin, partner and head of planning consultancy Marrons Planning, said the requirement for community consent to fracking could prove a major barrier, after a similar mechanism "obliterated" onshore wind farms.

"If the Government was serious about delivery, the evidence suggests that community consent would need to be removed as it demonstrably amounts to a moratorium for delivery," he said.

Against the backdrop of tight energy supplies this winter, which will see the National Grid depend on electricity imports from abroad, ministers have

already taken short-term measures such as keeping coal power stations on standby to help with any shortfalls.

The Government yesterday pledged "fundamental reforms" to the way the UK energy market works longer term. This will see renewable power generators face curbs on the huge profits they are making. Under historic arrangements, wind and solar farms built before 2014 can sell electricity at the market rate and benefit from government subsidies.

Following meetings with officials, renewable energy producers have agreed in principle to accept new long-term contracts at fixed prices well below

current rates, according to the BBC.

The changes announced yesterday have the potential to strengthen Britain's energy supplies. But they are almost certain to trigger a showdown in the courts with green campaigners, who say further drilling in the North Sea is incompatible with Britain's net zero commitments.

Further complicating the plans is a general hostility to fracking, which previously helped to kill off Mr Cameron's attempts to launch a new "dash for gas".

As officials around Ms Truss scramble to get a grip on the crisis, many will be hoping that her intervention doesn't end up as yet another false start.

Bank to lend power companies £40bn to cope with rising costs

By Tom Rees

THE Bank of England will hand cash-starved energy companies up to £40bn of Covid-style loans as suppliers struggle to protect themselves from soaring prices.

Liz Truss announced a joint scheme between the Bank and the Treasury to provide emergency short-term help in an intervention that ministers hope can slash energy costs.

Surging prices mean energy providers are having to provide more capital when buying energy to effectively insure against price swings. The huge capital requirements are stretching balance sheets in the sector.

The Energy Markets Financing Scheme will help suppliers meet the "extraordinary" cash requirements they face in the wholesale gas and electricity markets, amid concerns of a cash crunch that has been compared to a "Lehman Brothers moment" for energy suppliers.

The Government said the scheme is intended as a "last resort" for suppliers and will help to reduce costs and stabilise energy markets.

It is expected to be similar to a scheme used in the Covid crisis, which allowed the Bank to buy short-term debt from companies, giving them a cash boost to help them survive the pandemic. The Covid Corporate Financing Facility lent more than £37bn through the scheme.

Ms Truss said the measures will help prevent the need for supplier support down the line and "ensure that firms operating in the wholesale energy

market have the liquidity they need to manage price volatility".

On announcing the energy package, Ms Truss said: "This will stabilise the market and decrease the likelihood that energy retailers need our support like they did last winter. By increasing supply, boosting the economy and increasing liquidity in the market. We will significantly reduce the cost to government of this intervention."

'This will stabilise the market and decrease the likelihood that energy retailers need our support'

The Treasury said the opening date of the scheme will be announced by the end of October.

Andrew Bailey, Governor of the Bank, warned on Tuesday that cash problems for suppliers are a "concern", adding that "markets [are] becoming very thin". There have been concerns suppliers are facing a "Lehman Brothers" moment as they are having to stump up huge sums to post as collateral to hedge in the gas market.

"The margin calls that are having to be made for hedging have risen hugely," Mr Bailey said.

Norwegian energy giant Equinor highlighted the problem for suppliers on Monday, warning they need at least £1.5 trillion (£1.3 trillion) to cover the cost of their exposure to rocketing energy prices. The support could help reduce the cost of energy in the UK.

Kwarteng sacks most senior civil servant in the Treasury

By Ben Riley-Smith

THE most senior civil servant in the Treasury has been sacked by Kwasi Kwarteng, the new Chancellor.

Sir Tom Scholar, the Treasury permanent secretary, was told he was no longer wanted in the job on Tuesday.

Liz Truss repeatedly pledged to end the "Treasury orthodoxy" of the last 30 years during her successful Tory leadership campaign.

Sir Tom's removal has happened with immediate effect and he is no longer in the position, according to a government source. The hunt for a replacement has already begun.

Mr Kwarteng said: "Tom has been a dedicated and exceptional civil servant, and I thank him for his exemplary service to the Government and the country for the past 30 years.

"He's helped steer the Treasury and the Government through many economic challenges, from the financial crisis to the Covid pandemic, and he leaves the Civil Service with the highest distinction."

Sir Tom had run the Treasury since June 2016 and served with Rishi Sunak, Ms Truss's Tory leadership rival, during his chancellorship. Mr Kwarteng

dismissed him shortly after being appointed Chancellor, meaning it was one of his first acts in the role. Removing the most senior civil servant in the Treasury comes as the country faces an energy crisis and ministers announce a huge intervention to freeze bills.

Sir Tom, who leaves the Civil Service after a 30-year career and was previ-

Sir Tom Scholar, the Treasury permanent secretary, was told he was no longer wanted in the job



ously UK representative at the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, said: "It has been the privilege of my career to lead this great institution since 2016. I wish the Treasury all the best for the times ahead, and I will be cheering on from the sidelines."

Sir Tom's sacking was criticised by Lord Macpherson, his predecessor as Treasury permanent secretary, who tweeted: "Tom Scholar is the best civil servant of his generation. Sacking him makes no sense."

Families will be advised to turn down their thermostats

By Emma Gatten
ENVIRONMENT EDITOR

THE public will be advised to turn down their thermostats and reduce their boiler flow temperatures under plans being considered by ministers.

Energy industry experts have warned the Government that freezing bills could reduce the incentives for people to cut usage, potentially leading to energy shortages if supply runs low.

Jacob Rees-Mogg, the new Business and Energy Secretary, is understood to support a campaign to tell households how to reduce their boiler's "flow temperature", the level at which it heats up water before sending it through the radiator system.

Households can shave up to 8pc off their bills by turning down the flow temperature of a boiler from 80C (176F) to between 55C and 60C, according to industry experts.

Mr Rees-Mogg is understood to support the measure because it can bring down energy use without reducing the warmth of people's homes or impacting the quality of life. The Gov-

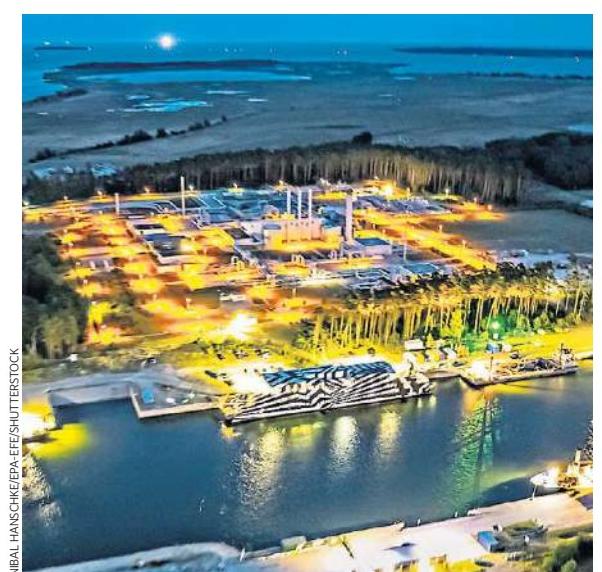
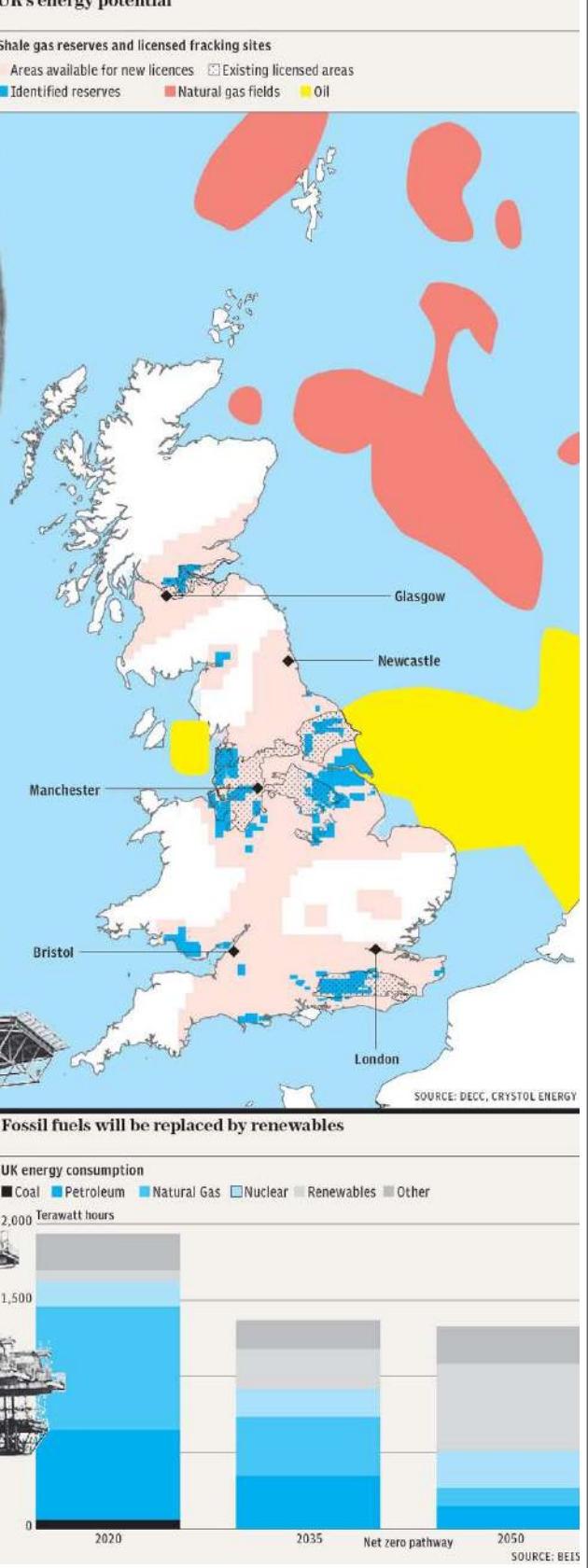
ernment has previously resisted calls for a public information campaign on cutting energy usage, over fears it could be seen as nanny.

It came as Liz Truss vowed to help households not connected to the gas grid to supply their homes with heating oil this winter. The new Prime Minister was yesterday asked what help she would give to 1.5m mainly rural households that rely on heating oil, which is not covered by a price cap, and has seen costs rise 130pc in recent months.

Speaking to Parliament, she said: "Many of my constituents rely on heating oil and we need to make sure we are looking after everybody in this difficult winter we are facing."

Homes that use electricity will qualify for the £400 bill reduction this year, but households will not benefit from the price cap overseen by Ofgem, nor any freeze on prices brought in by the new Government.

Liberal Democrat MP Tim Farron has said the unregulated price rises could be "devastating" for homes dependent on heating oil, and called for the fuel to be brought under a cap.



Autumn shutdown Lubmin, Germany, where the Nord Stream 1 gas pipeline across the Baltic Sea comes ashore. Russia closed the pipeline last month.

Food retailer 'Ministers should end green-related taxes'

When we built our new smoked salmon factory, having been evicted from our previous premises for the construction of the Olympic Park, our electricity prices were about £100,000 per annum. Over 14 years until last September, our prices rose little by little to £200,000. When we came to renegotiate last year, the rate doubled to a horrific £400,000, and that was only if we tied in for three years. We had no option.

If ministers now step in and limit prices for

The bakery 'Announcement was disappointing and vague'

When we first opened during lockdown our energy bill was about £1,500 a month, quite normal for a bakery our size. Our energy bill has risen to £5,000 a month. This is simply unmanageable.

Not only this, but suppliers are also facing the same costs and are lifting prices. And customers are facing rises at home and are trying to save rather than spend in our store. So we are being squeezed from both ends. I know many bakeries that are being forced to heavily reduce their offering, lay off staff,

After that, what are we supposed to do? And she hasn't specified the amount of support she'll be giving for businesses. We need tangible. Sophia Sutton-Jones, owner of Sourdough Sophia

business customers, we could be in a situation where those who are now tied down end up suffering. The best way for ministers to approach this crisis from a

business perspective is to end all green-related taxes, charges and subsidies. So we are being squeezed from both ends. I know many bakeries that are being forced to heavily reduce their offering, lay off staff,

Lance Forman, head of Forman & Field

Sport calls a halt on day of mourning

By Tom Morgan, Nick Hoult and James Corrigan

England's third Test likely to be played over four days

Golf, racing, football and rugby all postpone events

Britain's entire sporting schedule is suspended today as national mourning begins after the death of the Queen.

England's series-deciding third Test against South Africa loses a day's play and golf at Wentworth was also cancelled "out of respect for Her Majesty and the Royal family".

Premier League clubs were last night

preparing for the growing possibility that the entire weekend of action will now be wiped out.

Senior figures within the English Football League are known to be in favour of a complete postponement. The competitions were to meet again at 9am today to agree a final position, with tonight's fixtures at Championship Burnley and League Two Tranmere Rovers already off.

Senior figures in football say sports scheduled for the weekend are still awaiting formal guidance from Government on a "coordinated approach". However, guidance is now not expected to be definitive from ministers so the

sector will make its own decision this morning.

Leading figures across sport gathered yesterday afternoon as the Queen's condition became clear. Consensus was quickly reached that they should unite in postponing action today.

Racing, which had a particularly close affinity with the Queen, was the first sport to confirm there would be no meetings. "It is right, therefore, that all racing is suspended for today and tomorrow as we begin to grieve Her Majesty's passing and remember her extraordinary life and contribution to our sport and our nation," the British Horseracing Authority said. There is doubt that the St Leger Festival at Doncaster will resume this weekend.

Britain's longest-serving monarch was one of the most prominent British owner-breeders of thoroughbreds and the owner of Ascot racecourse. Senior figures said racing would do its utmost to "ensure it leads commemorations in sport" as a result.

In cricket, the Duchy of Cornwall is the landlord of the Kia Oval, and the England and Wales Cricket Board immediately convened a board meeting to delay England's third Test. "Following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Friday's play between England and South Africa at the Oval, along with all scheduled matches in the Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy, will not take place," the ECB said. A four-day Test now looks likely to begin tomorrow.

Golf's European Tour Group, meanwhile, immediately stopped play at the BMW PGA Championship and later cancelled today's action. "She truly was an inspiration to people the world over," the authority said. It is understood a decision over whether to resume play this weekend will be made today.

Opening matches for rugby's Premiership season could also be moved by at least a day after last night's Premiership Rugby Cup match between Northampton and Saracens was immediately called off. A final decision is likely this morning. All domestic competitive rugby matches in Scotland this weekend are off.

Some English football sides were involved in European fixtures last night.

Manchester United said they had been directed by both the Football Association and Uefa to press ahead with their Europa League fixture against Real Sociedad. Arsenal were playing at FC Zurich when the Queen's death was announced. A minute's silence took place before the start of the second half.

Government advice has largely allowed sports to make up their own mind regarding postponements. However, guidance does ensure a complete halt on the day of the Queen's funeral. At fixtures in the intervening period, athletes will wear black armbands, with venues observing pre-fixture silences.

Sources within Formula One said there was no expectation the Italian Grand Prix at Monza would be delayed.

United's resurgence stalled by disputed penalty for Sociedad

Europa League By James Ducker at Old Trafford

Man United 0
Real Sociedad 1
Mendez 59 pen

The momentum Manchester United had built on the back of four successive wins came to a juddering halt at Old Trafford as Erik ten Hag's first European game with the club ended in defeat by Real Sociedad.

Cristiano Ronaldo was back in the United starting line-up but the Portugal forward was forced to defer to another famous and familiar veteran on the night. David Silva won here five times as a Manchester City player and now has another Old Trafford victory to his name, the 36-year-old winning the contentious penalty from which Brais Mendez settled this game from the spot.

It was a frustrating night for Ronaldo and United, who huffed and puffed but fluffed the few chances they did create as Sociedad claimed a famous win.

There was some doubt initially if the game would go ahead after it was announced that the Queen had died. A minute's silence, impeccably observed, was held before kick-off with the words "Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II - 1926-2022 - In Memoriam" appearing on the perimeter boards, which were then blacked out as a mark of respect. Flags were lowered and players from both teams wore black armbands.

Ten Hag made six changes to the team that beat Arsenal on Sunday. Ronaldo, Harry Maguire and Fred were given their first starts since the debacle at Brentford, Casemiro his first for the club after three substitute outings and Victor Lindelof his first appearance of the campaign following injury.

For all their intent and possession, United had struggled to fashion much in the way of clear cut chances, at least until Ronaldo miscued a close-range header 35 seconds after the restart having scored with a much harder one in

the first half, albeit ruled out for offside. When Real Sociedad benefited from a very generous penalty decision shortly before the hour mark, United suddenly found themselves chasing the game.

It was harsh on United and Lisandro Martinez, who was only a few yards from Silva when the midfielder's shot bounced up off his leg and hit his arm. The Var upheld referee Marco Di Bello's decision and Mendez made no mistake from the penalty spot.

Ten Hag had begun the game with Fred pushed high upfield behind Ronaldo. It was an uncharacteristically advanced midfield role and it showed. Ten Hag abandoned the experiment at half-time, dropped Fred deeper and brought on Bruno Fernandes for Christian Eriksen, who had been United's best player but needs managing after so much football.

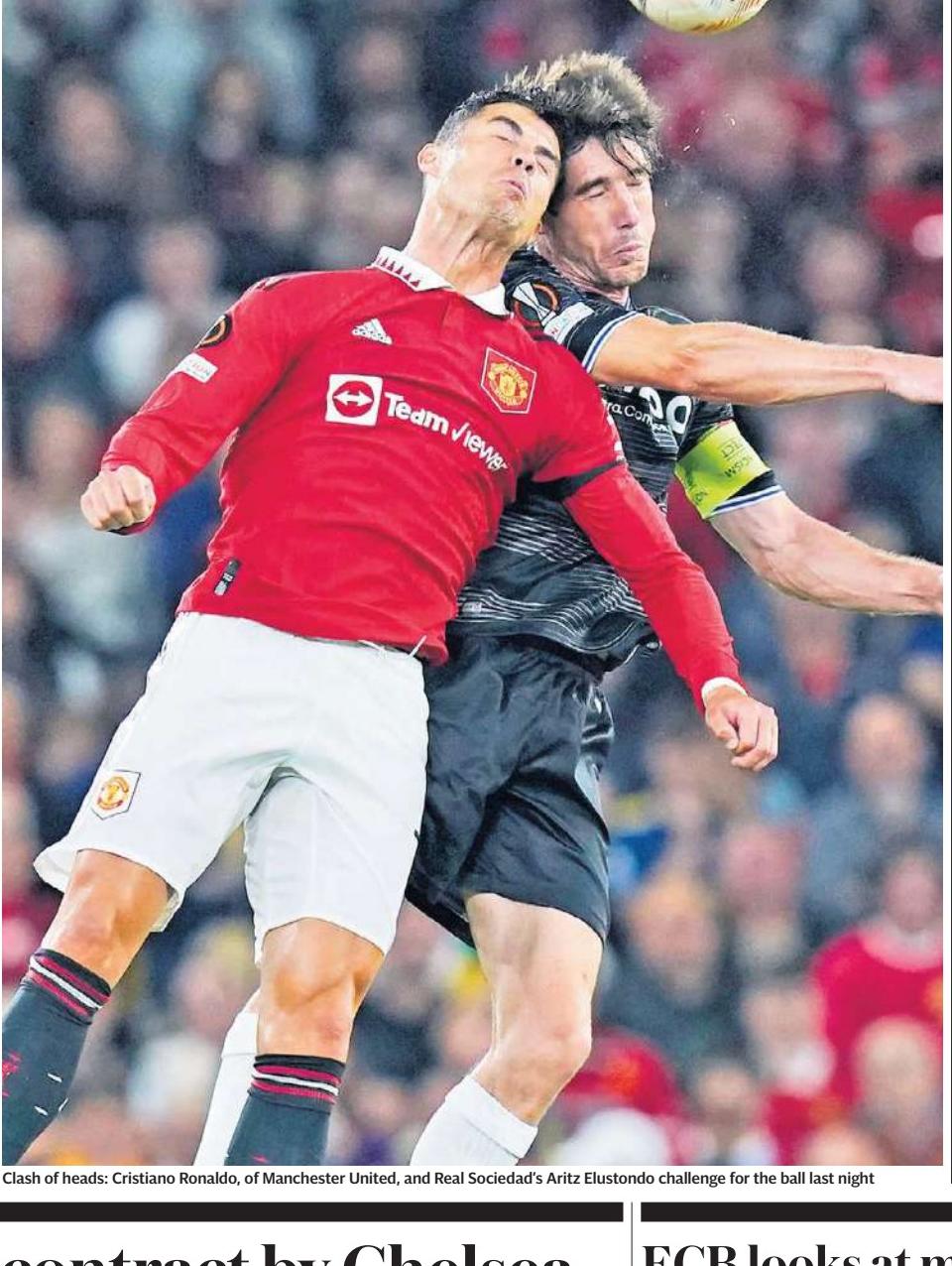
If Ronaldo had got his way this summer, he would have been playing Champions League, not Europa League football, this week. The 37-year-old pressed when he could but the signs of age were evident when, released in an offside position, he still had to check his run after being easily caught by Artiz Elustondo. Few players on the planet could have generated the power from a standing start to score from Diogo Dalot's floated cross, the shame being he was offside.

But he really should have scored with United's first attack after the break. Fernandes's cross was a beauty but, whether distracted by Elustondo's jump, Ronaldo brushed his header wide, the sort of chance you seldom see him miss. It would prove costly.

Manchester United (4-2-3-1) De Gea 6; Dalot 6 (Martinez h-t); Maguire 6, Lindelof 6, Malacia 6 (McNeill 84); Casemiro 6, Eriksson 7 (Fernandes h-t); Bruno 6 (Sánchez 71); Fred 5, Elanga 6 (Gómez 84); Ronaldo 6; Soler 6 (Heaton 9); Dubravka (g), Varela, Tobal, Wan-Bissaka, McNamee, Fredrikson, Booked Martinez, Fred, De Gea.

Real Sociedad (4-1-2-3) Remiro 6; Gorosabel 6 (Sola 84), Elustondo 7, Pacheco 7, Munoz 7; Zubimendi 7; Mendez 7 (Turrientes 84) 7, Merino 7; Silva 7 (Ch 65); Kubo 7 (Barrenetxea 78), Ulmar 6 (Sorloth 9); Subs Zubizurre (g), Ilarramendi, Zubeldia, Guevara, Navarro, Gonzalez, Karrilakuru, Booko, Munoz, Silva, Turrientes.

Referee Marco Di Bello (Italy).



Clash of heads: Cristiano Ronaldo, of Manchester United, and Real Sociedad's Aritz Elustondo challenge for the ball last night

Potter handed £60m contract by Chelsea

By Matt Law FOOTBALL NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Chelsea have given new head coach Graham Potter a contract worth £60 million and want him to help choose the club's next sporting director.

Potter has signed a five-year deal worth £12 million a year, which is one of the longest in Chelsea's history and means he will earn £60 million if he lasts the full term of his contract.

Chelsea paid £15 million to release Potter from his Brighton deal, underlining the faith the new owners have put in the 47-year-old, who has taken five members of staff with him to Stamford Bridge. Work has already started on finding a "world-class" permanent sporting director, but senior sources have confirmed that Potter will help to choose the successful candidate, with the club talking to people with Premier League experience and others who have worked on the continent.

Chelsea want the sporting director in place before the Premier League breaks for the World Cup in November.

Co-controlling owner Todd Boehly made himself interim sporting director during the summer, but he plans to step

back and, along with Behdad Eghbali, support the full-time sporting director and Potter during the January transfer window. Chelsea's transfer business will also be helped by recruitment specialist Kyle Macaulay, who has followed Potter from Brighton, along with assistant Billy Reid, coaches Bjorn Hamberg and Bruno and Ben Roberts.

Potter agreed to succeed Thomas Tuchel yesterday, a little over 24 hours after the German was sacked and after holding talks with Chelsea's owners on Wednesday. Chelsea's owners also spoke to former Tottenham Hotspur manager Mauricio Pochettino, but decided Potter, who will take his first training session today, is

Long game:

Graham Potter has signed a five-year deal



an "innovator" and a leader who is on the rise.

It is understood Boehly and Eghbali were impressed with the fact Potter is a "risk-taker", having started his coaching career in Sweden with Östersunds, before managing at Swansea City, and were attracted to the fact he has a Masters in emotional intelligence.

Confirming Potter's appointment, Boehly said: "We are thrilled to bring Graham to Chelsea. He is a proven coach and an innovator in the Premier League who fits our vision for the club.

"Not only is he extremely talented on the pitch, he has skills and capabilities that extend beyond the pitch, which will make Chelsea a more successful club. He has had a major impact at his previous clubs and we look forward to his positive impact at Chelsea. We

look forward to supporting him, his coaching team and the squad in realising their full potential in the coming months and years."

On taking over at Chelsea, Potter said: "I am incredibly proud and excited to represent Chelsea FC, this fantastic football club. I am very excited to partner with Chelsea's new ownership group and look forward to meeting and working with the exciting group of players and to develop a team and culture our amazing fans can be proud of.

"I would also like to place my sincere thanks to Brighton & Hove Albion for allowing me this opportunity and in particular Tony Bloom [the Brighton owner] and all the players, staff and supporters for their continued support during my time at the club."

Eghbali said: "Graham is a football innovator and winner on the pitch and a leader off the pitch. We are thrilled to partner with Graham to build a winning team, one that embodies the culture of collaboration, innovation, teamwork, player development, and a commitment to excellence on and off the pitch. We are fortunate to have Graham and his

team as our partners in that journey."

Database

Europa League Group A									
Zurich (1) 1	Arsenal (1) 2	Kryzciu 44 pen	Alencar 16	Nketiah 62					
PSV Eindhoven (0) 1	Bodo/Glimt (1) 1	Gakpo 62	Gronborg 44	P	W	D	L	F	A
Arsenal	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3	GD/Pts
Bodo/Glimt	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	
PSV Eindhoven	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	
Zurich	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0	

Europa League Group E

Europa League Group E									
Man Utd (0) 0	Real Sociedad (0) 1	Mendez 59 pen							
Omonia Nicosia (0) 0	Sheriff (1) 3	Rashed 2	Atiemwen 55 pen	Dipog 76	P	W	D	L	F
									A GD/Pts
Sheriff	1	0	0	3	0	3	3	3	
Real Sociedad	1	1	0	1	0	1	3	3	
Man Utd	1	0	0	1	0	1	-3	0	
Omonia Nicosia	1	0	0	1	0	1	-3	0	

Group A

Group A									
Istanbul Bkr (1) 4	Kadınlı 26	Kadınlı 26	Kadınlı 26	Kadınlı 26	P	W	D	L	F
Kadınlı 26	Kadınlı 26	Kadınlı 26	Kadınlı 26	Kadınlı 26					A GD/Pts
Kadınlı 26	Kadınlı 26	Kadınlı 26	Kadınlı 26	Kadınlı 26					
Kadınlı 26	Kadınlı 26	Kadınlı 26	Kadınlı 26	Kadınlı 26					
Kadınlı 26	Kadınlı 26	Kadınlı 26	Kadınlı 26	Kadınlı 26					

Group B

Group B									
West Ham (0) 3	FCB (1) 1	Cordeira 34	Emerson Palmieri 74	Antonio 90	P	W	D	L	F
West Ham	1	0	0	3	1	2	3	2	GD/Pts
West Ham	1	0	0	1	0	1	3	2	
West Ham	1	0	0	1	0	1	3	2	
West Ham	1	0	0	1	0	1	3	2	
West Ham	1	0	0	1	0	1	3	2	

Group F

Group F									

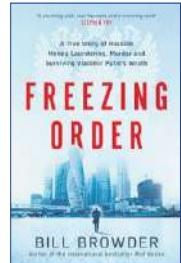
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Television & Radio

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The man who took on Putin, the history of Ukraine and the story of the Nazi billionaires

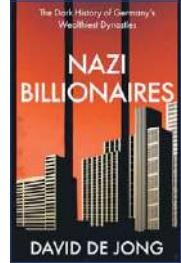


Freezing Order

Bill Browder, author of the bestselling *Red Notice*, returns with another gripping thriller, chronicling how he became Vladimir Putin's No 1 enemy by exposing his alleged campaign to steal and launder hundreds of billions of dollars and kill anyone who stands in his way.

A financial caper, an international adventure and a passionate plea for justice, *Freezing Order* is a stirring morality tale about how one man can take on one of the most ruthless villains in the world.

£20 (RRP £16.99)

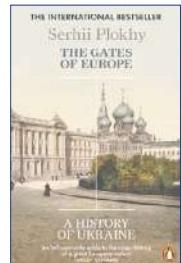


Nazi Billionaires

Investigative journalist David de Jong reveals the true story of how Germany's wealthiest business dynasties amassed untold money and power by abetting the atrocities of the Third Reich.

As the tycoons seized Jewish businesses and procured slave labourers, the wider world's political expediency enabled these billionaires to get away with their crimes, covering up a bloodstain that defiles the German and global economy to this day.

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The Gates of Europe: A History of Ukraine

The Baillie Gifford Prize-winning author of *Chernobyl* delivers a multi-layered, elegant and engaging exposition of the fast-moving history of Ukraine from the Viking era to present day, providing an indispensable guide to understanding the tumultuous past, present and potential future of the nation. Ukraine has long been the meeting place of empires – Roman to Ottoman, Habsburg to Russian – and they all left their imprint on the landscape, the language and the people living within these shifting borders. In this authoritative book, Harvard Professor Serhii Plokhy traces the history of the country.

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◆ books.telegraph.co.uk ◆ 0844 871 1514

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What to watch

MUNICH GAMES

Sky Atlantic/NOW, 9pm & 10pm



Seyneb Saleh stars as Maria Köhler, a German agent working with Mossad to prevent an attack

The spectacular Israeli TV drama *Fauda* set the bar high for TV espionage thrillers, so this six-parter from the same writer, Michal Aviram, warrants attention. It's a Munich-set drama with similar high-stakes geopolitics – the tension between Israel and Arab states and the ever-present threat of terrorism.

Set in the current day, it centres on a friendly football match between a German and Israeli team intended to

commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1972 Munich Massacre, when five Israeli Olympic athletes and six coaches were murdered. Just days before the match, Mossad agent Oren Simon (Yousef Sweid) intercepts a message on the dark web suggesting that an attack on the event is likely; he is teamed up with German agent Maria Köhler (Seyneb Saleh). It's always an uneasy relationship: Mossad's predisposition toward

extrajudicial practices doesn't sit well with the law-abiding Germans. What Simon doesn't know is that Köhler has ties to the Arab community that could help or hinder their enquiry. There's a subplot featuring the marvellous Dov Glickman as the owner of the cash-strapped Israeli football club. Stylish and tense, these first episodes feature the sort of shocking twists we've come to expect in *Fauda*. *Vicki Power*



Cobra Kai: Daniel (Ralph Macchio) shuts down the dojo

DRAMA

The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power

Amazon Prime Video
The megabucks spin-off continues to reach for JRR

Tolkien's vision of Middle-earth's Second Age. The real treat of today's third episode is our first glimpse – or, rather, great whopping eyeful – of the island kingdom of Númenor, home to a hearty bunch of sailing men (and women) and an impressive collection of gargantuan statues. Truly, this is where the Amazon money has been spent – the Númenorean vistas are jaw-dropping. Elsewhere, the Harfoots' regular migration is hampered by the mysterious Stranger, while elf-with-a-heart-of-gold Arondir finds himself in dreadful danger. The script chunks at times, but as a spectacle, it's hard to beat.

Cobra Kai
Netflix
Season five of the *Karate Kid* spin-off opens with fallout from season four's All Valley tournament. Daniel (Ralph Macchio) has decided to close his dojo while Johnny (William Zabka) drags Robby all the way to Mexico to search for Miguel.

FACTUAL

The Cotswolds & Beyond with Pam Ayres
Channel 5, 8pm
Pam's journey begins beyond the Cotswolds borders at Highclere Castle, one of Britain's most recognisable stately homes and now better known as Downton Abbey. As well as exploring some rooms that will be familiar to millions of



The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power

TV viewers, she finds out more about Highclere's fantastic gardens, designed by Capability Brown, and learns about Highclere's involvement in the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb in Egypt 100 years ago. After that, it's fish and chips in Weston-super-Mare. It's a tough life for some.

Digging for Treasure: Tonight

Channel 5, 9pm
The team have permission to set up camp near Finchampstead in Norfolk, hoping to find some Saxon and Viking artefacts from the great conquests of England, as they work with local detectorists from the King's Lynn Metal Detecting Group. Being so close to King's Lynn, they expect to find artefacts relating to its evolution as a port town and its growth into a key trading hub in the 17th century. Michaela Strachan hosts.



PUZZLES

Radio choice Gerard O'Donovan



New Frequencies

Radio 4, 3.45pm

This series showcasing writers aged between 16 and 21 is turning up some real talent; today's pair completed undergraduate degrees in creative writing earlier this year. Eoin Malone's *The Gods of Little Things*, read by Edmund Kingsley, takes a playfully

The News Quiz

Radio 4, 6.30pm

Andy Zaltzman again displays admirable timing for a topical comedy show (the beginning of last series coincided with Russia's invasion of Ukraine), sweeping back on air just days after our new Prime Minister takes charge after a shambolic power-vacuum

RADIO 1

FM 97.6-99.8MHz

6.33am Radio 1's Best New Pop **6.57** Newsbeat **7.00** Radio 1 Breakfast with Greg James **10.00** Radio 1 Anthems **10.30** Newsbeat **10.32** Radio 1 Anthems **11.02** Katie Thistleton **12.45pm** Newsbeat **1.00** Matt and Mollie **3.00** Radio 1's Party Anthems **4.00** The Official Chart on Radio 1 with Scott Mills **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Radio 1's Dance Party with Danny Howard **8.00** Radio 1's Future Dance with Sarah Story **10.00** Pete Tong **12.00** Radio 1's Essential Mix **2.00am** Radio 1 Dance Presents **3.00** Danny Howard **4.00** Radio 1's Wind Down Presents **5.00 - 6.00am** Radio 1 Relax

RADIO 5 LIVE

MW 693 & 909KHZ

6.00am Today **8.31** LW: Yesterday in Parliament **9.00** The Reunion **9.45** Fatwa **9.59** LW: Daily Service **10.00** Woman's Hour **10.45am** LW: Test Match Special **11.00** The Spark **11.30** Relativity **12.00** News **12.01pm** LW: Shipping Forecast **12.04** AntiSocial **12.04 LW:** Test Match Special **12.57** Weather **1.00** The World at One **1.45** Bhopal **2.00** The Archers **2.15** Drama: Exemplar **2.45** Living with the Gods **3.00** Gardeners' Question Time **3.45** New Frequencies See Radio choice

RADIO 2

FM 88-90.2MHz

6.30am The Zoe Ball Breakfast Show **9.30** Ken Bruce **12.00** Tina Daheley **2.00pm** Steve Wright in the Afternoon **4.15** Steve Wright in the Afternoon – Serious Jockin' **5.00** Sara Cox **7.00** Michelle Visage **8.30** Michelle Visage's Handbag Hits **9.00** The Good Groove with DJ Spooky **11.00** The Rock Show with Johnnie Walker **12.00** Romesh Ranganathan: For the Love of Hip-Hop **1.00am** Pop in the First Degree: 40 Years of Bananarama **2.00** Radio 2 Unwinds with Angela Griffin **3.00** Trevor Nelson's Magnificent 7 **3.30** The Good Groove with DJ Spooky **4.00** Sophie Ellis-Bextor's Kitchen Disco **5.00 - 6.00am** Radio 2 in Concert: BB King

RADIO 4

FM 92.4-94.6MHz; LW 198KHZ

6.00am Today **8.31** LW: Yesterday in Parliament **9.00** The Reunion **9.45** Fatwa **9.59** LW: Daily Service **10.00** Woman's Hour **10.45am** LW: Test Match Special **11.00** The Spark **11.30** Relativity **12.00** News **12.01pm** LW: Shipping Forecast **12.04** AntiSocial **12.04 LW:** Test Match Special **12.57** Weather **1.00** The World at One **1.45** Bhopal **2.00** The Archers **2.15** Drama: Exemplar **2.45** Living with the Gods **3.00** Gardeners' Question Time **3.45** New Frequencies See Radio choice

RADIO 3

FM 90.2-92.4MHz

6.30am Breakfast **9.00** Essential Classics **12.00** Composer of the Week

RADIO 5

MW 693 & 909KHZ

6.00am More Music Breakfast **9.00** Alexander Armstrong **12.00** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00pm** John Brunning **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven Presented by Zeb Soanes **10.00** Smooth Classics **1.00am** Katie Breathwick **4.00 - 7.00am** Sam Pittis

CLASSIC FM

FM 99.9-101.9MHz

6.00am More Music Breakfast **9.00** Alexander Armstrong **12.00** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00pm** John Brunning **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven Presented by Zeb Soanes **10.00** Smooth Classics **1.00am** Katie Breathwick **4.00 - 7.00am** Sam Pittis

WORLD SERVICE

DIGITAL ONLY

8.00am News **8.06** HARDtalk **8.30** Business Daily **8.50** Witness History **9.00** News **9.06** Tech Tent **9.30** Science in Action **10.00** News **10.06** The Real Story **11.00** The Newsroom **11.30** World Football **12.00** News **12.06pm** The Fifth Floor **12.50** Witness History **1.00** The Newsroom **1.30** Science in Action **2.00** Newshour **2.30** HARDtalk **3.30** World Business **4.00** BBC News **4.50** The Real Story **5.00** Tech Tent **5.30** Comedy Club **6.00** Journey into Space: Operation Luna **6.30** Sports Natural **7.00** It Sticks Out Half a Mile **8.30** Thirty Minutes Worth **8.00** Some Mother's Son **8.30** An Ice Cream War **9.00** Comedy Club **10.00** Journey into Space: Operation Luna **12.30am** Sounds Natural **1.00** Some Mother's Son **1.30** An Ice Cream War **2.00** The History of Brazil Is Round **2.15** Betsy and Napoleon **2.30** The Invisible College **3.00** The Last of the Mohicans **4.00** Say the Word **4.30** The Circle **5.00** The Golden Age **5.30** Ed Reardon's Week

summer. Expect both to be the focus of some fiercely surreal satire. Earlier, Richard Herring's sitcom *Relativity* (Radio 4, 11.30am) goes more for the cringe-factor. As Ian (Herring) is freaked out by a visit to the doctor, the grandchildren are horrified to discover *Ken* (Phil Davis) and Margaret (Alison Steadman) have been watching *Naked Attraction*.

HARDtalk **10.30** World Business Report **11.00** The Newsroom **11.20** Sports News **11.30** World Football

12.00 News **12.06pm** The Real Story

1.00 News **1.06** Business Matters

2.00 The Newsroom **2.30** CrowdScience **3.00** News **3.06** The Fifth Floor **4.00** News **4.06** The Real Story **5.00** The Newsroom **5.30** Dear Daughter **5.50 - 6.00am** More or Less

RADIO 4 EXTRA

DIGITAL ONLY

6.00am Some Mother's Son **6.30** An Ice Cream War **7.00** The Golden Age **7.30** Ed Reardon's Week **8.00** It Sticks Out Half a Mile **8.30** Thirty Minutes Worth **8.00** Some Mother's Son **8.30** An Ice Cream War **9.00** Comedy Club **10.00** Journey into Space: Operation Luna **12.30am** Sounds Natural **1.00** Some Mother's Son **1.30**

PLEASE NOTE
TV and radio schedules are accurate at time of going to press but subject to change. Go online for up-to-date listings telegraph.co.uk/tv/tv-guide

Today's television

Main channels

BBC One

6.00 am Breakfast (S) **9.15** Morning Live (S) **10.00** Maximum Security (AD) **10.45** Claimed and Shamed (S) **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer (AD) (R) (S) **12.15 pm** Bargain Hunt (AD) (S) **1.00** BBC News at One; Weather (S) **1.30** Regional News; Weather (S) **1.45** Doctors (AD) (S) **2.15** Money for Nothing (S) **3.00** Escape to the Country (AD) (R) (S) **3.45** Garden Rescue (AD) (R) (S) **4.30** The Bidding Room (S) **5.15** Pointless (R) (S) **6.00** BBC News at Six; Weather (S) **6.30** Regional News; Weather (S)



BBC News Special: Huw Edwards

BBC Two

6.30 am Escape to the Country (AD) (R) **7.15** The Bidding Room (R) (S) **8.00** Sign Zone: The Repair Shop (AD) (R) (S) (SL) **9.00** Summer: Earth's Seasonal Secrets (S) **10.00** News (S) **1.45 pm** Eggheads (R) (S) **2.15** FILM: The Remains of the Day (1993) Period drama starring Anthony Hopkins and Emma Thompson (S) **4.25** Jungle Animal Hospital: Natural World (R) (S) **4.30** Wanted: A Simple Life (R) (S) **5.15** Flog It! (R) (S) **6.00** Richard Osman's House of Games (S) **6.30** Unbeatable (S)



BBC News: Balmoral Castle

ITV

6.00 am Good Morning Britain (S) **9.00** News (S)



Good Morning Britain: Reid and Shephard

Channel 4

6.10 am Countdown (R) (S) **6.50** 3rd Rock from the Sun (AD) (R) (S) **7.15** 3rd Rock from the Sun (AD) (R) (S) **7.40** Everybody Loves Raymond (AD) (R) (S) **8.05** Everybody Loves Raymond (AD) (R) (S) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond (AD) (R) (S) **9.00** Frasier (AD) (R) (S) **9.30** Frasier (AD) (R) (S) **10.30** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (R) (S) **11.25** Channel 4 News (S) **11.30** The Great House Giveaway (R) (S) **12.30 pm** Steph's Packed Lunch (S) **2.10** Countdown (S) **3.00** A Place in the Sun (R) (S) **4.00** Chateau DIY (AD) (S) **5.00** Moneybags (S) **6.00** The Simpsons (AD) (R) (S) **6.30** Hollyoaks (AD) (R) (S)



Steph's Packed Lunch

Channel 5

6.00 am HM The Queen: 1926-2022 (S) **9.00** Jeremy Vine (S) **10.00** HM The Queen: 1926-2022 **12.45 pm** Holiday Homes in the Sun (S) **1.40** 5 News at Lunchtime (S) **1.45** Home and Away (AD) (S) **2.15** FILM: A Mother's Terror (2021), TVM Premiere. Thriller starring Jessica Morris (S) **4.00** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun (R) **5.00** 5 News at 5 (S) **6.00** Cash in the Attic (S) **6.55** 5 News Update (S)

The Enforcer (1976)
Channel 5, 10pm ★★★

Film choice

**The Enforcer (1976)****Channel 5, 10pm****★★★**

Intriguingly based on *Dirty Harry* fan fiction, which was penned by fledgling screenwriters Gail Morgan Hickman and SW Schurr, this is the third film to feature Clint Eastwood's Magnum-wagging cop. In this instalment, he must stop a gang of rogue Vietnam veterans and their associates, a Black Power organisation. There's gunfights aplenty to keep fans of the original happy.

The Sky's the Limit (1943, b/w)**BBC iPlayer****★★★**

This comedy musical provides an unusually solid acting role for Fred Astaire. He plays war hero Fred (haha) who sneaks into New York incognito in order to spend a stretch of leave in the city and meets journalist Joan (played by Joan Leslie, hahaha) who assumes that Fred is a coward hiding from the war. Of course, her mistake ends in romance, via a famous Astaire dance to the song *One For My Baby*.

The Sky's the Limit (1943, b/w)
BBC iPlayer ★★★

This coming-of-age saga set in 19th-century New England was writer-director Greta Gerwig's most beloved childhood novel, as it has been for generations who encountered it before her. Gerwig's star-studded film, led by Saoirse Ronan as Jo, Timothée Chalamet as Laurie and Florence Pugh as Amy, successfully lends the tale an impressionistic and millennial sensibility.

Little Women (2019)**All 4****★★★**

Weather & Crosswords

Forecast

General situation

With the storm east of East Anglia today, rain will continue across northern England, southern Scotland and southwestern England. Thunder showers will occur across the rest of Wales and England.

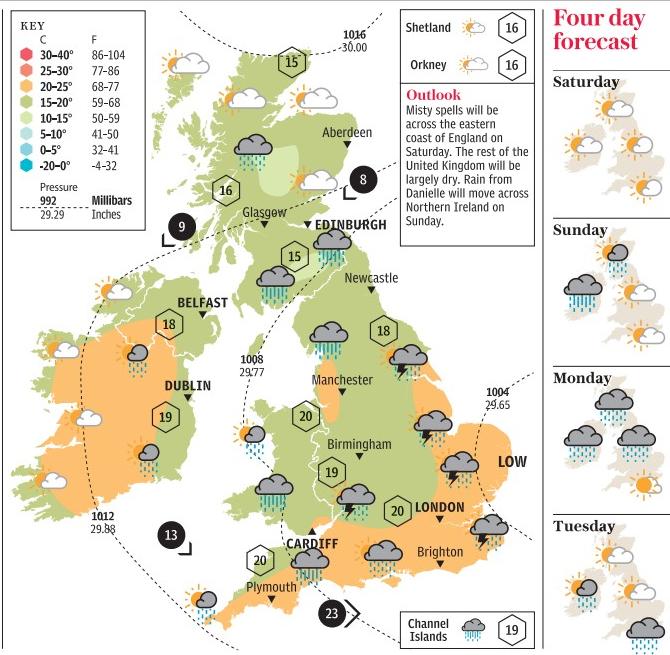
◆ London, Cent S England, Channel Is, SW England, E England, SE England, E Anglia, Midlands: (15-19C). Min 50-59F (10-14C). Min 50-59F (10-14C).

◆ N Ireland: The odd shower today. A moderate to fresh NE to N wind. Max 61-66F (16-19C). Dry tonight. Min 48-59F (9-15C).

◆ SW Scotland, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Argyll, W Isles, SE Scotland, NE Scotland, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, Orkney, Shetland:

Rain in the south today, showers in the east. A moderate E to NE wind. Max 45-64F (7-18C). Dry tonight. Min 39-55F (4-13C).

◆ Wales: Spells of rain, some thunder, into this evening. A moderate NE wind. Max 59-66F



Four day forecast

Saturday

Cloudy with some rain in the west and north.

Sunday

More rain moving in from the west.

Monday

Widespread rain across the country.

Tuesday

Widespread rain continues.

European readings

Last night's report for 24 hours to 6pm

Max Min Daytime
°C °C weather

Akrotiri 32 23 sunny

Alicante 33 23 sunny

Funchal 27 21 sunny

Gdansk 20 8 p/cldy

Athens 30 22 sunny

Barcelona 27 22 p/cldy

Bari 34 21 sunny

Belgrade 31 19 sunny

Benidorm 32 22 p/cldy

Bergen 20 11 sunny

Istanbul 28 19 sunny

Kyiv 19 8 p/cldy

Berlin 19 14 rain

Biarritz 24 15 sunny

Bodrum 36 23 sunny

Bordeaux 23 15 storms

Brest 20 14 storms

Luxembourg 18 13 rain

Brussels 21 15 storms

Bucharest 29 14 p/cldy

Budapest 30 15 showers

Malaga 35 22 windy

Malta 30 26 sunny

Marseille 28 19 sunny

Menorca 30 23 p/cldy

Milan 29 19 rain

Monaco 31 21 storms

Corsica 31 20 p/cldy

Crete 26 22 sunny

Munich 21 15 rain

Naples 29 21 p/cldy

Nice 31 21 windy

Nicosia 36 21 sunny

Oporto 21 17 cloudy

Zurich 22 15 rain

Nature notes

Bees have eye for blossoms' pattern

Bees rely heavily on flower patterns – not just colours – when searching for nectar and pollen, research found.

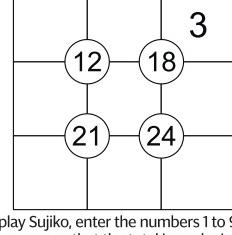
Previous studies suggested that honeybees primarily use their eyes to discriminate between shades of colour when distinguishing various blossoms, as they have low-resolution vision.

Scientists believed that in order for pollinators to tell flowers apart, the plants evolved different petal colours.

But new research suggests pollinators can "very effectively" distinguish between different species of flower using a combination of colour and pattern – meaning flowers can also use patterns to diversify their displays.

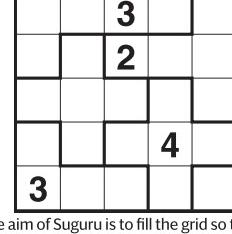
Prof Natalie Hempel de Ibarra, of the University of Exeter, who led the study, said: "Our findings suggest that flowers don't need to evolve too many different petal colours, because they can use patterns to diversify their displays so bees can tell them apart from other flowers."

Sujiko® MODERATE NO 4438



To play Sujiko, enter the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the total in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding squares. Today's solutions appear on Monday.

Suguru NO 1526



The aim of Suguru is to fill the grid so that no same digit is touching. A two-cell outlined block contains the digits 1 and 2; a three-cell block contains 1, 2, 3; and so on. The same digit must not appear in neighbouring cells, not even diagonally.

Yesterday's solutions:

Sujiko 4437: 947

862

315

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World readings

Last night's report for 24 hours to 6pm - *estimated readings

Max Min Daytime
°C °C weather

Accra 28 23 p/cldy

Addis Ababa 21 12 storms

Adelaide 16 10 showers

Alexandria 30 25 sunny

Dubai 39 31 sunny

Jakarta 28 25 storms

Jeddah 36 30 sunny

Tiree 4.0 0.02 18 13 showers

Weymouth 0.2* 0.13 18 13 showers

Whitehaven 3.0* 0.13 18 13 showers

Windermere 2.9* 0.26 18* 9* rain

Worcester 1.9* 0.19 19 13 rain

Yeovil 2.4* 0.32 18 14 rain

York 1.7* 0.18 19* 12* showers

Hanover 3.2 23 showers

Hong Kong 32 27 storms

Riyadh 42 26 sunny

San Francisco 24 18 sunny

Santiago 23 24 p/cldy

Taipei City 32 24 p/cldy

Tanger 26 18 sunny

Kuala Lumpur 32 25 cloudy

La Paz 16 -1 p/cldy

Lahore 34 28 haze

Lima 16 14 cloudy

Los Angeles 28 23 p/cldy

Buenos Aires 20 15 showers

Manila 34 26 p/cldy

Marrakesh 36 19 sunny

Melbourne 16 13 showers

Montego Bay 31 25 storms

Mumbai 32 25 storms

Nairobi 20 13 cloudy

Johannesburg 24 10 sunny

Kabul 30 18 sunny

Carachi 34 20 sunny

Kolkata 34 28 p/cldy

Beirut 31 24 sunny

Bermuda 30 24 storms

Bogota 20 8 p/cldy

Bridgeport 31 28 p/cldy

Brisbane 20 11 cloudy

Ecuador 33 16 haze

Kuala Lumpur 32 25 cloudy

La Paz 16 -1 p/cldy

Lima 16 14 cloudy

Toronto 25 15 sunny

Tunis 40 27 p/cldy

Vancouver 17 11 sunny

Cairo 34 23 haze

Canberra 17 7 cloudy

Cape Town 19 12 sunny

Casablanca 29 15 sunny

Chicago 28 17 sunny

Christchurch 14 3 p/cldy

Colombo 30 26 cloudy

Nairobi 20 13 cloudy

Johannesburg 24 10 sunny

Kabul 30 18 sunny

Carachi 34 20 sunny

Kolkata 34 28 p/cldy

Beirut 31 24 sunny

Bermuda 30 24 storms

Bogota 20 8 p/cldy

Bridgeport 31 28 p/cldy

Brisbane 20 11 cloudy

Ecuador 33 16 haze

Kuala Lumpur 32 25 cloudy

La Paz 16 -1 p/cldy

Lima 16 14 cloudy

Toronto 25 15 sunny

Tunis 40 27 p/cldy

Vancouver 17 11 sunny

Cairo 34 23 haze

Canberra 17 7 cloudy

Cape Town 19 12 sunny

Casablanca 29 15 sunny

Chicago 28 17 sunny

Christchurch 14 3 p/cldy

Colombo 30 26 cloudy

Nairobi 20 13 cloudy

Johannesburg 24 10 sunny

Kabul 30 18 sunny

Carachi 34 20 sunny

Kolkata 34 28 p/cldy

Beirut 31 24 sunny

Bermuda 30 24 storms

Bogota 20 8 p/cldy

Bridgeport



H.M QUEEN ELIZABETH II

1926 – 2022

THE WOMAN BEHIND THE CROWN

She was brilliant at accents, loved playing practical jokes, was a big fan of 'Line of Duty' and partial to a jigsaw. Gordon Rayner gets a unique insight into the shy, funny woman who was our Queen, from her inner circle

Every one of us can instantly summon a mental image of Queen Elizabeth II. It might be in ceremonial robes, with orb and sceptre, or waving from the balcony of Buckingham Palace during her Platinum Jubilee.

She was perhaps the most familiar face in the world, yet the woman behind that wonderful smile was also one of the least known, an enigma who regarded mystique as an essential part of the job.

For Elizabeth II, the role of Queen was one she gladly played, but it was her job rather than her identity. The real Elizabeth Windsor was a mother, a wife, a practical joker, a pianist, a mimic, a grandmother and an animal lover who, just like the rest of us, liked to unwind by watching *Countdown* and *Line of Duty* on the television.

Some of those who knew the Queen as a boss or a friend have shared their experiences of the person who remained largely hidden from view for 70 years, providing a fascinating insight into a monarch who, in public at least, never let the mask slip.

Those who did catch a glimpse of the real Elizabeth often wished others could see her as they did, as the people of Britain and the Commonwealth would surely have loved her even more.

Samantha Cohen, who served the Queen for 17 years as her press secretary and then assistant private secretary (she stopped working for the Royal household in 2019), says: "She was really normal, the most normal non-normal person I have ever met. It was remarkable how grounded she was, she wasn't fussy, she was so practical, she wasn't interested in material things. She recognised that being Queen was a role and a job so she managed to be ordinary and extraordinary at the same time, and that put people at ease. And she was incredibly humble, she was without ego, quite shy really."

Harold Macmillan, the third of her 15 prime ministers, once told the Queen that it was a pity her mischievous sense of humour was always shielded from view. She replied that as the Sovereign she had to look serious because it was what people expected.

Stories of the Queen's impish side abound from those who knew her best, and she would take particular delight in those rare occasions when people failed to recognise who she was.

Richard Griffin, a former royal protection officer, described an occasion when the Queen was walking her dogs on the Balmoral estate and came across a pair of American tourists at a picnic site.

He said: "There were two hikers coming towards us and the Queen would always stop and say hello. It was clear from the moment they stopped that they

hadn't recognised the Queen." After recounting what they had done on their holiday, the tourists asked Her Majesty, "and where do you live?" She replied: "Well, I live in London but I've got a holiday home just over the hills. I've been coming up here ever since I was a little girl, over 80 years." One tourist asked: "Well, if you've been coming up here for 80 years you must have met the Queen?"

Without missing a beat, the Queen replied: "Well, I haven't, but Dick here meets her regularly." When Mr Griffin was asked, "What is she like?" he replied with a twinkle in his eye: "Well she can be very cantankerous at times but she's got a great sense of humour."

The tourists asked if they could have their picture taken with Mr Griffin, and asked his companion if she would do the honours. After the Queen took a picture of Mr Griffin with the tourists, they swapped places and Mr Griffin took a picture of the tourists with the Queen.

He said: "We never let on, and we waved goodbye and Her Majesty said: 'I'd love to be a fly on the wall when he shows those pictures to their friends in America and hopefully someone tells him who I am.'"

Behind closed doors, the Queen would sometimes refer to herself and members of her family by the nicknames given to them by *Private Eye*: Brenda (the Queen), Keith (Prince Philip), Brian (Charles) and Yvonne (Princess Margaret), and she was self-deprecating to a fault. As she watched footage of the wedding of the then Prince of Wales and Princess Diana, she turned to her husband and said: "Oh Philip, do look, I've got my Miss Piggy face on."

She also had a stock answer, used on more than one occasion, if someone's mobile phone rang while they were talking to the Queen. "You'd better answer that," she would say. "It might be someone important!"

The Queen took great pleasure in catching out members of the public, often as a result of her determination to do things for herself rather than have everything done for her by servants.

A member of staff in the household goods department of the London department store Peter Jones took a call from a customer wanting to buy a picnic basket for two.

"Would you send it round on account please?" asked the customer, giving the address as "Buckingham Palace." Inquiring to whom it should be addressed, the shopworker was told: "The Queen, thank you" before the line went dead. Assuming it was a practical joke, the store phoned the Palace and was told: "Oh, she is naughty. We are meant to do things like that for her."

Sir Alan "Tommy" Lascelles, the Queen's first private secretary and a man so memorably brought to life by

Pip Torrens in *The Crown*, noticed her "healthy sense of fun" which came out when she was off-duty.

In 1957, when Prince Philip was aboard *Britannia* for its first voyage to Australia, he grew a beard which had a distinct ginger tinge, much to the Queen's amusement. She flew out to Lisbon to join him and when Philip got on to the aircraft to greet her, he found his wife and all of her staff wearing fake ginger beards.

Very few people outside her immediate family had the pleasure of experiencing one of the Queen's many hidden talents, as a mimic. Not only did she like to take off politicians, including Neil Kinnock and Boris Yeltsin, but she also had a repertoire of regional accents.

The story of Michael Fagan, the intruder who got into her bedroom at Buckingham Palace in 1982 in one of the worst ever breaches of royal security, could not be retold by her without Majestic impressions of the key players. She would copy the Middlesbrough accent of Elizabeth Andrew, the chambermaid who was first to respond, as she quoted her saying: "Ooh bloody 'ell Ma'am, what's 'e doin' 'ere?"

On another occasion, when she realised that one of the crew filming her Christmas broadcast was from Birmingham, she showed the technician a collection of silverware made in the city and "explained what all the pieces were in a broad Brummie accent", according to a courtier who was there at the time.

One of the great ironies of royal visits is that those who arrange them will suffer weeks of sleepless nights fretting over the details, yet members of the Royal family, who attend hundreds of well-drilled engagements each year, enjoy nothing more than when things go wrong.

The Queen liked to recall the visit she once made to Trinity College, Oxford, where the Lord-Lieutenant of Oxfordshire fainted, then his wife fainted, thinking he had died. A college servant fell over and dropped a drinks tray in the commotion that followed. The Queen told her hosts: "We've had a wonderful lunch. Bodies all over the place!"

Even such an important ceremonial occasion as the Prince of Wales's investiture in 1969 had its lighter moments for the Queen. She confided in Noël Coward that she had struggled not to giggle when she put the crown on Charles's head at the rehearsal because it was too big and it "extinguished him like a candle-snuffer".

Yet the Queen never fell into the trap of trying to be more interesting to the public or more light-hearted in her interactions with strangers. By keeping a steady, regal demeanour, she maintained a persona that people came to expect, and so the public was never

disappointed. She knew that if she had tried to be more energetic or funny, people would notice the days when she was tired or off-form, and there would be endless questions about what was eating her that day.

Far better, even for someone with such an unstuffy personality, to stick to a baseline that could always be attained, even on days when she might have been feeling below par.

Former *Telegraph* royal correspondent Ann Morrow noted that the Queen had to maintain some distance from the public because "if she warmly cuddled a child it might cry, be sick on her dress or embarrass the parents and ruin an otherwise innocently happy afternoon".

Gavin Ashenden, a former chaplain to the Queen, believes that part of her success lay in the fact that her "official" persona was almost indistinguishable from her private persona.

He says: "She had this artificial personality, as Queen, and she lived in it without any tension because it was not far from who she was. She was able to put people at ease because she came across as a jolly nice, very kind person and that was entirely genuine."

In later years, of course, the Queen did start to show her hand, most memorably at the opening of the London 2012 Olympics when she joined Daniel Craig's James Bond on a mission to parachute into the stadium (via a stunt double), her appearance with Paddington Bear at the Platinum Jubilee concert (tapping her teacup to Queen's *We Will Rock You*) and when Prince Harry enlisted her for a "mic drop" moment in some trash talk with President Obama to promote his Invictus Games.

These moments played to her sense of theatre.

I had the honour of being invited to a reception at Buckingham Palace before the London Olympics, thrown by the Queen for members of the media before the nation's greatest sporting event since 1966. As editors and journalists gathered in the Picture Gallery, they were gently herded towards one end where, suddenly and without warning, a grand set of double doors swung open to reveal the Queen and Prince Philip, which electrified the room.

It was a classic piece of stage management from a monarch who was acutely aware of her power to impress, and newspaper editors (including those whose publications had a distinctly republican leaning) were reduced to nervy, bowing subjects as they were singled out by her for conversation.

The Queen also liked to make entrances to meetings using some of the secret doors that are a feature of the Palace, and was clearly tickled by the reaction of those

who had been granted an audience. Despite all of that, the Queen was by nature a shy woman, which was perhaps one of the reasons she was so attracted to the supremely confident and outgoing Prince Philip.

Sally Osman, who served as the Queen's director of communications for more than five years, says: "Because she was quite a shy person, she put the cloak on when she went out, and she had coping mechanisms, like the handbag, which she didn't really need to carry but it was part of her armour."

The Queen even tried to veto the live broadcast of her coronation because she was petrified she would make a mistake that could not be edited out.

Her shyness manifested itself in a lifelong hatred of confrontation. "She would do anything to avoid confrontation," says one former aide. "She was particularly bad at tackling difficult conversations with her children, which is why Prince Philip always had to be the family disciplinarian."

At times it could be a serious hindrance. Those who were on her staff at the time say the Queen's aversion to confrontation was the reason she failed to veto one of the most cringe-inducing episodes of her reign, *The Grand Knockout Tournament*, better remembered as "It's a Royal Knockout". The brainchild of her youngest son Prince Edward, the televised event in 1987 involved the Princess Royal, the Duke and Duchess of York and Edward himself dressing up in medieval costumes to captain celebrity teams in the format of the slapstick game show *It's a Knockout*.

The Queen had been strongly advised to refuse permission for the event, which heavily promoted sponsors like Asda and McDonald's. The Prince and Princess of Wales flatly refused to have anything to do with it, but the Queen could not bear to crush the Tiggerish Edward's madcap plan. The result was a collective loss of dignity the like of which the Royal family had not seen.

The Queen also pulled her punches when she was supposed to deliver bad news to another of her sons, Prince Andrew. In 2011, when his friendship with the paedophile Jeffrey Epstein first came to the fore, the Government decided to strip him of his role as the UK's roving trade ambassador. The Queen was given the task of telling him.

"Andrew went into a meeting with the Queen," a source recalls. "When he came out of the meeting it was obvious he still thought he was trade ambassador. She hadn't told him."

This inability to stand up to members of her own family is all the more surprising in the context of the Queen's immense personal courage. She would frequently ignore advice to stay away from countries that were considered dangerous, was sanguine about the threat of assassination by terrorist groups, and showed calmness under fire that would have been the envy of many a soldier.

In 1981, when a 17-year-old gunman fired six times at her from the crowd before Trooping the Colour (the bullets were blanks, something the Queen only found out later), the monarch kept her horse under control, patted it and insisted on carrying on with the ceremony.

When a concrete block was dropped on her car from a tower block in Belfast others expressed shock, but the Queen simply said: "It's a strong car."

Her cousin, Margaret Rhodes, recalled a comment made to her by the Queen when they were out riding together six months after the murder of Earl Mountbatten by an IRA bomb in 1979. The Queen matter-of-factly said: "I've been informed that the IRA have a new sort of sniper sight that sees through the mist," then carried on riding, moving on to the next topic.

Fatalistic about the possibility of assassination, whenever she was warned about security risks, she would shrug and say: "If someone really wants to get me it is too easy." She also told a friend that: "I'm not afraid of being killed. I just don't want to be maimed."

Her father George VI, who refused to evacuate from London during the Second World War, would not have been surprised.

Before he became King, when Elizabeth was less than 10 years old, he compared her to Queen Victoria, saying: "From the very first moment of talking she showed so much character that it was impossible not to wonder whether history would not repeat itself."

That "character" was manifested, in part, in a steely determination, including in her choice of husband, with whom she was in love, rather than the supposedly more suitable men placed above him in the list compiled by her mother.

Her childhood was materially privileged but emotionally challenging: when she was eight months old her parents went to Australia and did not return for six months, and for much of her childhood she was reliant on her nursemaid and nanny Margaret "Bobo" MacDonald, a woman who became so important to the Queen that she remained by her side for 67 years.

It is difficult to separate such an institutionalised childhood from the Queen's difficulty in expressing emotion in later life.

Her family would say that "it is always hard to tell with Lilibet whether she is happy or not... is it one of her chin or chinless days?" On a "chinless" day she would tuck in her chin and look disgruntled.

The issue of her mothering skills is a vexed one: Jonathan Dimbleby's 1994 authorised biography of Prince Charles, every word of which was approved by the Prince before publication, accused the Queen of being a "detached" mother, "unable or unwilling" to give him the affection and appreciation he desired.

Others talk of a woman who loved young children and babies. Prince William has said that to him she was always a grandmother first and the Queen second, and it is, of course, possible that she was more indulgent towards her grandchildren than her own children, as many grandparents are.

Even expressing personal grief presented difficulties for the Queen. Her cousin Lady Brabourne, her old Girl Guide leader and a lifelong friend, once sent her condolences to the Queen over the death of one of her corgis and received a deeply personal four-page letter in reply, filled with emotion and reflections on the death of her pet. Yet when Lady Brabourne lost her father Earl Mountbatten and her son in the 1979 IRA bombing (which she herself survived), there was no letter from the Queen. Prince Philip, in contrast, wrote a long and compassionate letter to their grieving relation.

The Queen's delay in visiting Aberfan after the 1966 spoil heap disaster, and her reluctance to return to London from Balmoral when Diana, Princess of Wales died in 1997, were interpreted by the public as evidence of a coldness on the Queen's part, but in the case of Aberfan, the Queen was worried that her arrival would prove a distraction from the vital rescue work, and after Diana's death, she was trying to protect Princes William and Harry by keeping them away from the intense public response in London.

She was, of course, being urged to respond differently, particularly over the issue of the flagless



1953

God save the Queen

Portrait by Cecil Beaton of the 27-year-old Queen Elizabeth II on June 2 1953, dressed as a peeress of the realm for her Coronation

flagpole at Buckingham Palace. Tradition dictated that no flag flew when the monarch was not in residence but the public and media demanded that a flag should be flown at half mast. The Queen initially dug her heels in, before eventually bowing to the inevitable, but one courtier said they had never seen the Queen so angry as when she was being told to change tradition over the flag. It was because she could not bear insincerity or pretence and was always true to herself.

There was never any need to feign enthusiasm when it came to horses or dogs. The first newspaper the Queen read every morning was the *Racing Post* (she also read *The Telegraph* and would read the *Financial Times* to check on her investments) and Princess Anne once divulged that the only person who could always be sure of being put straight through to the Queen whenever they telephoned was her racing manager Lord "Porchey" Carnarvon, because a call from him meant there would be news about her horses.

It was at the races that the Queen would come closest to throwing off her mask altogether, jumping up and down with excitement as her horses came down the finishing straight. In her spare time she would make private visits to Normandy to visit studs, and few things gave her as much pleasure as success on the racecourse; she was the leading owner in 1954 and 1957, and won every classic flat race except the Derby, some of them several times.

The Queen's love of corgis was well known, but she also bred Labradors, taking a hands-on approach to their care, to the point of removing their fleas herself. For several years she competed in gun dog trials at Sandringham and Balmoral, and on shoots she would work four dogs at a time. She would even indulge her dogs by feeding them titbits from the table during meals (she liked to have her dogs under the table at lunches she hosted as it helped put her guests at ease). Her love of animals extended to pigeons; carrying on a family tradition started by Edward VII, she kept racing birds at a loft in Norfolk. She did not, however, care for cats.

As a child she had dreamed of living in the country surrounded by horses and dogs, and her annual summer stay at Balmoral – her favourite time of the year – was the closest she got to that.

One former courtier says: "One of the first things you noticed was how different she was when she was at Balmoral or Sandringham compared with when she was at Buckingham Palace. She didn't have to be Queen there. You would look out of the window and she would walk past with her dogs, and wave."

It was at Balmoral, with its Ghillies Balls, Scottish dancing and barbecues, that the Queen was at her most relaxed – she once said that "it's rather nice to hibernate" there. The Queen insisted on doing her own washing-up after Prince Philip's legendary barbecues on the estate, and Margaret Thatcher was so taken aback to see her doing it bare-handed that she sent her some Marigold gloves in the post.

Holidays at Balmoral – while never work-free – gave the Queen time to indulge in some of her personal pleasures. She loved TV quiz shows, particularly *Countdown* and *Pointless*, was partial to thrillers, including *Line of Duty*, and would watch *MasterChef* with Prince Philip when he was still alive, though racing would of course be her preference during the

flat season. Comedies like *Morecambe & Wise*, *Yes Minister* and *The Two Ronnies* were favourites, and she ploughed through thrillers by Dick Francis and Hammond Innes. There would usually be a jigsaw on the go at Balmoral or Sandringham. Ballet was preferred to opera (apart from Gilbert and Sullivan).

In younger life she learned to play the piano to a good standard, and she was fluent in French (official papers sent over from Canada would sometimes be in French and would not need to be translated).

Despite her taste for gin and Dubonnet, the Queen drank only in moderation and was disciplined in her eating habits to maintain her weight and health. Like most other members of the Royal family, she ate very quickly; etiquette dictated that as soon as the Queen was finished eating all of her guests' plates would be cleared, meaning slower eaters were caught out mid-meal.

Her favourite meal was afternoon tea. Prince Charles once said that "everything stops for tea" and that his family were "addicted to it".

The Queen would brew the tea, allowing one spoonful per person and three minutes to brew for small leaf tea and six for larger leaf tea. Sandwiches and cake would then be served, even in mid-flight, which gave the Queen the stamina to keep going on busier days. Her regime clearly worked: her only recurring health problem was sinusitis, and she had the stamina of an ox.

Margaret Thatcher was among those who struggled to keep up with her at times. When the then Prime Minister felt faint at a hot, stuffy diplomatic reception and had to sit down, the Queen breezed past her and said: "Oh look, she's keeled over again."

Understandably, the Queen often craved a taste of normality, away from the caged existence that gave her little real freedom. She liked to drive her own car (and liked to drive fast on private roads even in old age), would pop into tea shops near Balmoral and hope not to be recognised (her small stature often caught people out – she was just 5ft 4in tall) and enjoyed the rare chances she had to go to the shops.

Ms Cohen recalls: "We stopped off in Singapore [to refuel] on the way back from Australia in 2002 and she liked to buy silk there, which merchants would bring to her in a private suite. But on this occasion, for the first time ever, she decided she would just go shopping in the Duty Free at Changi Airport. We went to a stall and the people who owned it didn't recognise her, and so they started bartering with her and saying, 'Hello lady!' She was just looking at me and laughing and asking, 'What do I say?' She thought it was absolutely brilliant, it was such a fun thing."

Ms Cohen would also catch glimpses of the wife and mother who employed her. She says: "When we were going through her red boxes she would sometimes say, 'Are we nearly finished because I've got to give Philip his lunch.' She would also do all the bedroom plans when people came to stay at Sandringham, she cared about all those things because she was a mother and a wife."

The Queen was not incapable of losing her temper with her husband though. During a six-month tour of Australia soon after the coronation, a local camera crew filmed the Queen hurling tennis shoes and a tennis racket at Prince Philip outside their chalet before dragging him back inside. The crew agreed to

hand over the footage, and the Queen, according to the filmmaker, later appeared, a picture of calmness, and said: "I'm sorry for that little interlude but, as you know, it happens in every marriage."

The former Prime Minister Sir Alec Douglas-Home suggested that if she was not the Queen she might have been head of Chatham House (he saw at first hand her immense intellect, which she wore so lightly) or The Jockey Club, and she would undoubtedly have been happy doing so.

She regarded pomp and ceremony as an important part of her role, but it was not a natural fit for her personality, which was far more down to earth than some of the celebrities, aristocrats and billionaires with whom she came into contact.

When she first became aware of Baroness Marie-Christine Anna Agnes Hedwig Ida von Reibnitz, the divorcee who would become Princess Michael of Kent when she married the Queen's cousin, she remarked that "she sounds much too grand for us".

Frugality was always a watchword (unless racehorses were involved), as it was with most of the wartime generation. Grand fireplaces would have a one-bar electric fire installed in the grate rather than being lit, and those who were allowed to see the Queen's private apartments were always taken aback at how outmoded they were. Aides were surprised to see an old cathode-ray television set in her living room long after everyone else had swapped them for flat-screens.

And while newspapers would react with fury to perceived breaches of royal protocol by foreign visitors, such as Michelle Obama's supposed gaffe in putting a friendly arm around Her Majesty, the Queen was far less bothered than her courtiers.

For a woman whose job involved some of the most spectacular outfits ever created (and certainly the most spectacular jewels), the Queen was remarkably uninterested in clothes and fashion, and certainly was not vain. She never asked for official photos to be retaken when they caught her in a bad light, and she would sit going through letters while her hair was being done, caring little about the finished result (and stuck with the same hairstyle for decades).

One photographer did make her tetchy: when Annie Liebovitz asked the Queen, in full Garter robes, to take off her coronet so she would look "less dressy", the Queen held up her ceremonial robes and retorted: "Less dressy? What do you think this is?"

As for her wardrobe, "working" clothes had to be practical, brightly-coloured (so she could be seen in a crowd) and largely immune to fashion trends. There were occasions though, according to Morrow, when she would don a floaty gown for a private gathering at Sandringham or Windsor and "twirl and swish in front of long mirrors" before joining her guests.

Former aides say part of the secret of her success was that she loved people, and genuinely cared about them. If she was heading off on a foreign tour, for example, she would personally oversee the gifts for presidents and their wives, asking about their hobbies and spending time thinking about what they would like, rather than simply doling out framed pictures or books.

When Michelle Obama and her daughters visited the Queen, she arranged for them to have a carriage ride around the gardens of Buckingham Palace, knowing how much the girls would enjoy it.

In her younger years, she was not averse to using her femininity to charm world leaders such as the Australian Prime Minister Gough Whitlam, who visited Windsor in 1973. Whitlam gave the Queen a large sheepskin rug and Her Majesty, who had been warned of his republican leanings, sat on the rug, stroking it and telling him how lovely it was.

Duty, of course, overrode every other consideration in her life. The abdication of her uncle Edward VIII had a profound effect on her. Edward had put personal happiness before his duty to a generation who had laid down their lives for their country (and were about to do so again), leaving the Queen determined to do the opposite.

It was what drove her discipline of going through her red boxes of government papers every day except Christmas Day, sometimes for hours at a time (Edward VIII rarely bothered).

She did her duty during the war, joining the Auxiliary Territorial Service as 2nd Subaltern Elizabeth Windsor, and she made it clear in her 21st birthday broadcast that she would do her duty for her entire life, a duty not just to her country, but to God.

Elizabeth II prayed every day, usually in a private chapel at one of her residences, and believed profoundly in the almost mystical quality of monarchy. It was why she never considered abdicating.

Her faith was also a staff that she clung to throughout her life. Ashenden says she was an "old-fashioned Anglican, almost pre-war", whose faith had developed over the years, thanks in part to her friendship with the American evangelist Billy Graham, which began in 1955. Ashenden credits Graham with an "evangelical awakening" in the Queen which deepened her religious beliefs and helped her see over every crisis that came her way.

Her spirituality extended to superstition. Spilled salt would always be thrown over the shoulder, she would never have 13 people sitting around a meal table, and candles would all have to be lit from the same taper.

Faith may also have been the reason she was so forgiving. Despite her personal ire over the behaviour of Edward VIII (then known as the Duke of Windsor), she tried to heal the rift with him by going to see him in Paris during an official visit in 1972, nine days before his death, and she agreed that he and Wallis Simpson could be buried together at Frogmore House. She also hosted Mrs Simpson at Buckingham Palace after the Duke died.

There was even a reconciliation, of sorts, with Paul Burrell, the Queen's former footman who became Princess Diana's butler and was accused of a "cold and overt betrayal" by Princes William and Harry after he wrote a book about his time working for the Royal family. Burrell was charged with the theft of 310 of Diana's possessions in 2002, but his Old Bailey trial collapsed after the Queen confirmed that Burrell had told her he was keeping some of the items at his home for safekeeping.

In recent years the Queen had allowed her staff to re-establish contact with Burrell, having previously imposed an effective ban on doing so.

"Everyone just fell in love with the Queen," says Ms Cohen, "because she embodied trust. You absolutely knew you were with a person of innate goodness, you knew that she was so genuine that when she laughed at your joke she meant it, and when she asked about your family she meant it because she never did anything she didn't mean."

On a Golden Jubilee regional tour she was surprised at how many people had turned out to see her in Berkshire and Buckinghamshire early one morning, and asked an aide: "Are these crowds really for me?" They were, and they will be as nothing compared with the crowds that will gather to express the nation's gratitude, respect and affection for our longest-reigning monarch.

1926

► A Queen is born
The Duchess of York (later the Queen and, later still, the Queen Mother) with her husband, the Duke of York (later King George VI), and their daughter Princess Elizabeth at her christening in May 1926. The Queen was born on April 21 1926 at 17 Bruton St, Mayfair, home of her maternal grandfather, the Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne.



1927

► **The infant Princess**
 Elizabeth, known as Lilibet, is pictured just before her first birthday. She is in the garden of the home of her grandparents, Lord and Lady Strathmore, at St Paul's Walden Bury, Hertfordshire.

**1929**

► **With Grandpa England**
 Princess Elizabeth with her grandfather George V, whom she called Grandpa England, and her grandmother Queen Mary. For all his supposed grumpiness and grandness, George V doted on his granddaughter and, according to legend, always wanted her to be Queen even though she was unlikely to accede to the throne at this time. It was presumed that her uncle, the Prince of Wales, later Edward VIII, would produce an heir.

**1936**

► **The Windsor Wendy house**
 With Princess Margaret Rose and her parents at Y Bwthyn Bach, or The Little House, a gift from the people of Wales in 1932. Only months after this picture was taken, Edward VIII abdicated, George VI became King and Lilibet became first in line to the throne.

**1930**

► **A love of horses**
 With her father, the Duke of York, and her Shetland pony, Peggy. From a young age, the Princess adored horses. According to her nanny, Marion "Crawfie" Crawford, she used to pretend to ride at bedtime, tying her dressing-gown cord to her bedpost. "I mostly go once or twice round the park before I go to sleep, you know," she told Crawfie. "It exercises my horses."





1937
▲ **Daddy becomes King**
Pictured in the Throne Room of Buckingham Palace. The two little Princesses had just watched their father being crowned in Westminster Abbey.

1943
◀ **A royal play**
Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret star in *Aladdin* at Windsor Castle. Between 1941 and 1944, their Christmas pantomimes raised money for the Royal Household Wool Fund, which supplied knitting wool to make comforters for soldiers at the Front.

1940
▼ **Her first radio address**
Princess Elizabeth, 14, broadcasts to the children of the Empire during the Second World War at Windsor Castle. She closes her speech by asking her sister, Margaret Rose, 10, to join her in saying goodnight.





1942

▲ **The teenage colonel**
At 15, Princess Elizabeth became Colonel of the Grenadier Guards. She wears a diamond brooch in the form of the regimental badge. Picture by Cecil Beaton.

1945

◀ **The Princess joins up**
Princess Elizabeth in her Auxiliary Territorial Service uniform with an Army ambulance. She joined the ATS in 1945, aged 18, as a subaltern. By the end of the war, she was a junior commander. Having completed her course at No. 1 Mechanical Training Centre, she passed out as a fully qualified driver.

1940

► **The Blitz hits London**
During the war, it was suggested that the Princesses should be evacuated. Their mother said, "The children won't go without me. I won't leave without the King. And the King will never leave."

1946

▼ **A royal bridesmaid**
She and Princess Margaret Rose were bridesmaids at the wedding of Lady Patricia Mountbatten to Lord Brabourne at Romsey Abbey, Hampshire. Prince Philip of Greece and Denmark can be seen on the right.







1947

► Love story

Princess Elizabeth and Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten, newly engaged, at Buckingham Palace. Prince Philip first met the Queen in 1939, when she was 13.



1947

◀ The royal wedding

Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh at Westminster Abbey. In austere, post-war, rationed Britain, the wedding provided a touch of magic. The Princess's duchesse satin dress was designed by Norman Hartnell.

1948

► A son and heir

Prince Charles, her first child, is born at Buckingham Palace. He was baptised at the Palace by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Geoffrey Fisher. The Queen was the first reigning monarch to give birth since Queen Victoria.



1951

► An heirloom for a baby

Princess Anne, the Queen's only daughter, was born at Clarence House in 1950. Pictured on her first birthday, the baby Princess is wearing the coral necklace once worn by her mother. Between 1949 and 1951, Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip lived in Malta, where he was stationed. They had a blissful time, staying at Villa Guardamangia.



1960

► Prince Andrew is born

A decade after Princess Anne's birth, Prince Andrew is born in the Belgian Suite at Buckingham Palace.





1952

◀ **Death of a King**
With Prince Philip at Sagana Lodge, Kenya, February 1952. Days later, on February 6, King George VI died and she became Queen, while at Treetops, Kenya.



1953

◀ **A date with destiny**
The Queen at Buckingham Palace before her Coronation. She is dressed as a peeress of the realm and wears the George IV State Diadem crown.



1955

◀ **Her first PM**
Winston Churchill escorts Queen Elizabeth to her car after dining at 10 Downing Street. Churchill was the first of her 15 prime ministers.



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II

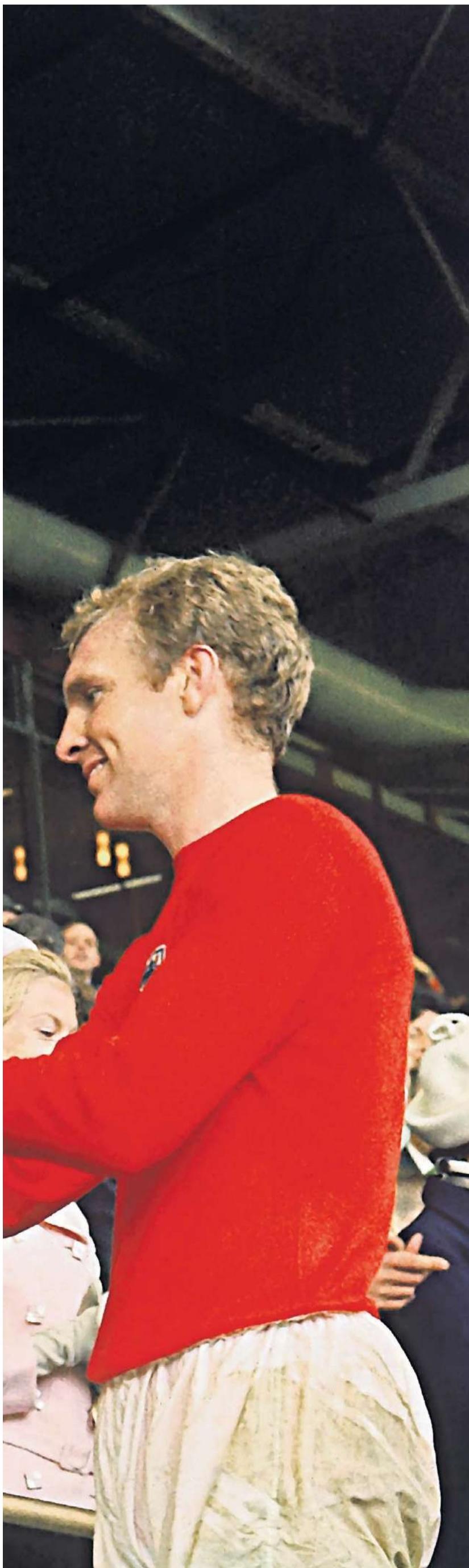


1953

The young Queen

Cecil Beaton's portrait of the Queen after her Coronation, in full regalia





1966

► The Queen and her captain
The Queen hands the World Cup to Bobby Moore after England beat Germany 4-2 at Wembley.



1964

► Prince Edward is born
A fourth child was born at Buckingham Palace. He is the only one of the Queen's children whose birth was witnessed by Prince Philip.



1969

► Letting the cameras in
The BBC documentary *Royal Family* was screened after the cameras had followed the Royal family for a year. It is said the Queen didn't approve of the film and it hasn't been shown on TV since.



1969

► The commuting Queen
The Queen takes the Tube after opening the Victoria Line. In 2022, she opened the Elizabeth Line, named after her.





1977

The Silver Jubilee

25 years after her accession to the throne, the Queen celebrated the Silver Jubilee. She processed through London in the Gold State Coach, built for George III in 1762

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1982

◀ **The Warrior Prince returns home**
The Queen and Prince Philip welcome Prince Andrew home after his heroic spell flying helicopters in the Falklands War. This was the high point of Andrew's popularity before his later fall from grace.



1985

◀ **A kiss for Mummy**
Prince Charles kisses his mother's hand at the Guards Polo Club, Windsor. Prince Charles gave up polo, due to a bad back, in 2005. But his son Prince Harry remains a keen player in Los Angeles.



c1980s

◀ **The Queen and the Iron Lady**
With Mrs Thatcher outside Balmoral. It is wrongly claimed that the two women didn't get on. In fact, there was a deep mutual respect between them.





1981

► The wedding of the century
The whole world was transfixed by the fairy-tale wedding at St Paul's Cathedral between Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer. Any storm clouds seemed very far away.

1982

► A son is born
Prince William, born at St Mary's Hospital, London, plays with his parents at Kensington Palace. He was the first child born to a Prince and Princess of Wales since Prince John in 1905.





1997

◀ Death of a Princess
The death of Diana, Princess of Wales, in a car crash in Paris was a seismic event in the Queen's reign.



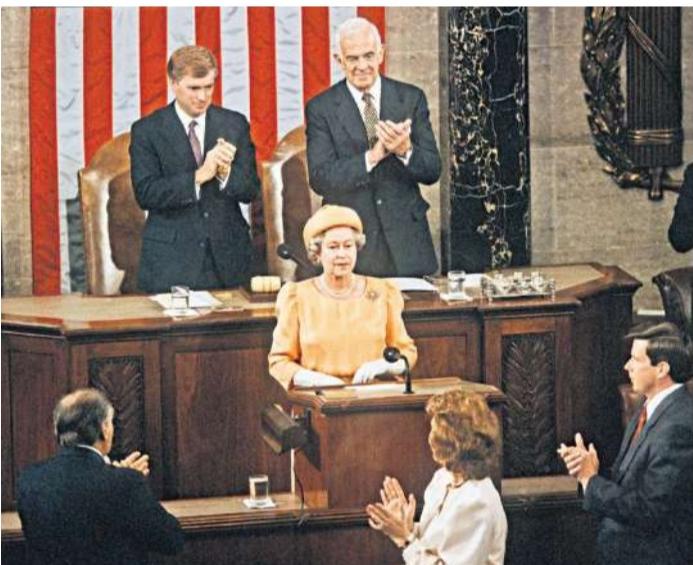
1997

► A mourning speech
The day before Princess Diana's funeral, the Queen made a moving speech. She said she addressed the nation "as a grandmother" and calmed those who had been concerned about her not coming down from Balmoral earlier.



1991

► Addressing Congress in Washington
The Queen spoke to a joint session of Congress, with Vice President Dan Quayle and Speaker Tom Foley behind her, after the allied victory in the Gulf War.



2002

► Death of a Queen – and a mother
The Queen Mother died in 2002 at 101. Tony Blair and Iain Duncan Smith, leader of the Conservative Party, file past her coffin.



1992

◀ ▶ Annus horribilis
The Queen referred to her "annus horribilis" in a speech in London's Guildhall. It was the year Windsor Castle suffered a severe fire, the Prince of Wales separated from Princess Diana, the Princess Royal got divorced – and Sarah Ferguson was photographed having her toes sucked by John Bryan.



2000

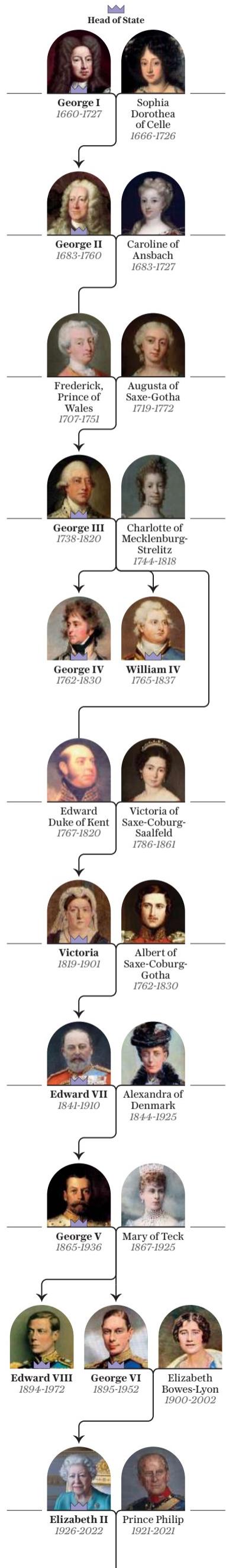
► Not such a Happy New Year
The Queen was said not to have enjoyed singing *Auld Lang Syne* with Prime Minister Tony Blair and wife Cherie at the New Year party at the Millennium Dome.





**The monarchs who came before her**

The royal lineage from the Hanoverian dynasty to the Windsors

**2011**

▲ Prince William's wedding
The wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton shored up the foundations of the monarchy for another generation.

2018

► Harry settles down
The nation rejoiced at the Windsor wedding of Prince Harry to Meghan Markle. The couple gave up royal duties and moved to America in 2020. The Queen issued a rare personal statement, saying the Royal family would "respect and understand their wish to live a more independent life as a family".

2005

► The final furlong
The Queen attends the marriage of Prince Charles and Camilla Parker Bowles in Windsor - also the day of the Grand National. In her wedding speech, the Queen says, "They have overcome Becher's Brook and The Chair and all kinds of other terrible obstacles."





2012

▲ On Her Majesty's Secret Service

For the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games, the Queen took part in a glorious skit with Daniel Craig as James Bond. She then appeared to parachute into the London stadium.

2019

◀ Four royal cooks

The monarch – and the next three in line to the throne – prepare a Christmas pudding at the Palace.



2022

◀ The Platinum Queen

At the end of a dazzling, double Bank Holiday weekend, the Queen stepped out on the Buckingham Palace balcony to a riotous reception. In her official message, she declared, "I continue to be inspired by the good will shown to me, and hope that the coming days will provide an opportunity to reflect on all that has been achieved during the last 70 years, as we look to the future with confidence and enthusiasm."



2021

▲ My strength and stay

At the death of Prince Philip, aged 99, the Queen observed Covid distancing rules at the funeral at St George's Chapel, Windsor. The nation mourned with her.



AFP/Getty Images, Alexi Lubomirski/Getty Images, Buckingham Palace/Getty Images, Camera Press/ILN, Camera Press/Spice, Camera Press/Studio Lisa, Cecil Beaton/Camera Press, Cecil Beaton/V&A, Chris Jackson/PA Wire, Dennis Brack/Getty Images, Dmitri Kessel/LIFE/Getty Images, Dominic Lipinski/PA Wire, Getty Images, Henrydallaphotography.com/PA, Hulton Archive/Getty Images, Ian Jones, John Stillwell/PA Wire, Jonathan Brady/AP, Ken Goff/Getty Images, Marcus Adams/Camera Press, Mark Cuthbert/Getty Images, Mary Evans, Mirrorpix, Odd Andersen/Getty Images, PA Images, PA Wires, Rex Features, Rex Shutterstock, Richard Watt, SWNS, The Royal Collection, Tim Rothery/ROTA, Tim Graham/Getty Images, Touchdown Films/AP, Yui Mok/PA Wire

Captions by Harry Mount

2022

▶ A lifelong love affair

At the age of 96, when mobility issues limited her public appearances, the Queen was still happy to pose with her favourite subjects.

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THE END OF AN ICONIC ERA

What will be the greatest legacy of our longest-reigning monarch?

By ROBERT TOMBS

The death of Queen Elizabeth II is felt far beyond these islands, not only as the ending of a long and illustrious life but also as a landmark in history. Will future generations refer to the Elizabethan age, as we do to the Victorian? Many will inevitably compare the reigns of our two greatest modern monarchs. To pursue this comparison for a moment may help us to reflect on the importance of the Queen we have lost. To be at the same time an individual and a symbol, to give history a human face: that is the task and challenge of each succeeding monarch.

The term "Victorian" only became current some years after Queen Victoria's death. Hindsight was needed not only to understand, but rather more to misunderstand and simplify, so that a stereotype of Victorianism could be formed. One distinguished historian born during her reign wrote that he was constantly being told that "the Victorians did this, or the Victorians thought that, while my own difficulty was to find anything on which they agreed". Victoria's life extended from the time of stagecoaches to the age of aeroplanes. Yet the "Victorian" concept seems in retrospect to give this revolutionary period a meaning, a stable character.

How might we sum up the reign of Elizabeth, the woman who sat on the throne for longer than any other in the 12 centuries since the kingdom began, and longer than most of us have been alive? Above all as a time of change? Perhaps every generation in modern times thinks of itself as living through unprecedented change. Perhaps, in different ways, they are all right. The generation that grew up in the 1960s has been described as more unlike its predecessor than any other in history. The age of the internet is seeing changes that many believe are uniquely rapid. Are they greater than those caused by the printing press or the steam engine? Has the age of Elizabeth been a time of greater change than that of Victoria, during whose lifetime Britain became the first industrial nation, the first ever mainly urban society, and a near-democracy?

In one sense at least, there is a fundamental difference between the two reigns. During that of Victoria, she and her subjects grew closer together in their fundamental beliefs and ways of life. Even though obvious differences remained between "the rich man in his castle, the poor man at his gate", in piety, respectability, law and order, deference, patriotism, family values, even cultural tastes to some degree, they converged. Victoria seemed to embody increasingly

shared values. During the reign of Elizabeth, the opposite has been true. When Her Majesty came to the throne, her sentiments and those of most of her subjects were similar, and indeed similar to those at the end of Victoria's reign: religion, patriotism, respectability, duty. The Queen maintained those virtues while the country was losing them. Much of the respect she commanded came from that very fact: she upheld the beliefs and standards that we no longer practised.

Great change generates a need for some stability. Many of the ancient symbols of continuity, such as churches, have seen a precipitous loss of cultural and social influence. The monarchy, however, retains its hold on the imagination. This was the Queen's primary achievement. It makes the United Kingdom different from most of its neighbours, and gives it an identity and an undeniable prestige.

Since the reign of Victoria, the monarchy has given up most of its political functions. But it retains the most fundamental of them all: as the head of the nation and the state. The state is thus not identical to the government or even the parliament. Crucial elements are kept at arm's length from politics. The judiciary, the civil service, the police, and the Church of England owe their allegiance to the Crown, not to the Prime Minister. Most importantly of all, the Armed Forces had a strong link to the Queen personally. Until quite late in her reign, in uniform and on horseback, she reviewed her troops every year, and in old age continued to do so in civilian clothes from a small carriage. She thus helped to maintain a balance between the different arms of the state, to buttress their political neutrality, and to keep politicians in check.

The official role of the Queen as Head of State was expressed through solemn and elaborate rituals, whose annual repetition added to the feeling of permanence she radiated. But these were only part of the impact she had, and for many people, a lesser part. She insisted on mixing with crowds, dressed in bright colours to be easily visible. Her unending labour of being seen and spoken with made her a memorable part of the lives of millions, in Britain and overseas.

The Queen's death causes us to recall the transformations that have taken place during her lifetime in Britain and the world. Yet at the same time, monarchy symbolises permanence alongside the dizzying kaleidoscope of modernity. The philosopher John Gray has argued that because we live amid

constant fluidity, when the core idea of modernity is of endless movement, people increasingly want and need protection and a sense of belonging. In a secular age, the national community is the best we have.

A nation has famously been described as an "imagined community", which people feel part of, despite its vast size, far beyond any personal experience. The Queen's role in giving substance to this imagined community can scarcely be measured. It is hard to grasp the extent, and the presence, of the Queen and her family as patron and inspirer of a huge range of civil society bodies and activities: she herself was patron of over 500 voluntary associations, and other members of the Royal family are engaged, often actively, in some 3,000, involving millions of people. This has demanded patient, tireless and no doubt often tedious activity, carried out with kind words, smiles, and expressions of encouragement.

Relatively few people in the country could never have seen the Queen, or had no contact, through voluntary

Perhaps future generations will look on the Elizabethan age as a time presided over by a serene, unruffled monarch

societies, with her or her family. My own first memory of a public event, at four years old, was a children's party in a smoky industrial town to celebrate her coronation. Fifty-eight years later, she came to Cambridge to mark the 500th anniversary of my college. During those years, as child and adult, I had seen her four more times, and remember each one. But I have never seen a prime minister.

Is the continuity and identity she embodied an illusion, a show to lull the masses? So sceptics have maintained ever since the time of Walter Bagehot in the 1860s, who commented superciliously that monarchy was a fairy story for those "still so imperfectly educated" as to need one. No, it was a precious reminder that even in a changing world, the things we value remain.

Without some tangible continuity and a feeling of kinship we would lose our bearings and dissolve into a flood of disconnected and confused individuals. Many of the things we value, and which protect us, come

from community and spontaneous mutual trust. Local neighbourhoods, voluntary associations, charities, nations themselves: all can provide security and belonging. At all these levels, the Queen was constantly engaged in weaving connections. That she would attend a village church, visit a children's charity, give her name to a new city hospital, present medals and honours, preside over meetings of the Commonwealth: all this helped to draw together a vast range of activities and make them part of the shared life of a whole society.

Princess Elizabeth served in uniform during the Second World War, and as Queen witnessed the end of European empires, the rise and fall of Soviet power, Britain's entry and exit from the European Union, rapid ethnic diversity, a revolution in communications, the growing power of China, the challenge of climate change. Her first prime minister was Winston Churchill; 14 others have followed. She displayed, when her governments rarely did, devotion to the Commonwealth, which now seems perceptive.

We could choose to see her reign as a time of instability, fragmentation, and even (as some like to see it) of decline. But it has also been a time of hugely greater wealth, greater freedom, greater equality and tolerance – the good side of our loss of "Victorian values". It has also been – despite fears, conflicts and disturbances – a halcyon age, one of the most fortunate times to be alive in Britain in the whole of history. Without the agony, and mostly even without the threat, of a major war. Without hunger, plague, revolution, or civil war. When life expectancy and mass living standards rose to barely imaginable heights, notwithstanding our present problems. Perhaps this is how future generations will look back to the Elizabethan age: as a lucky, privileged time, presided over by a serene and unruffled monarch.

Is this now coming to an end, and might the death of the Queen be seen in years to come as marking the beginning of a darker age – an age of new geopolitical tensions, perhaps even of major conflicts, of climate instability, or further epidemics and other major challenges to the Western model? This looks likely, and some of it inevitable. It means that the task of the Queen's successors will be increasingly demanding and necessary. Monarchs who, following Queen Elizabeth's example, can embody and buttress identity, solidarity and trust, will not merely be Bagehot's magic show. They will be anchors in a new age of uncertainty.

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2007

Photographic portrait by Annie Leibovitz
Commissioned to celebrate the Queen's state visit to the United States



1974

Hounds of love

The Queen – and the corgis, of course – arriving at Aberdeen Airport to start her holidays in Balmoral

HER MOST FAITHFUL FRIENDS

Her lifelong bond with her beloved corgis gave the Queen the strength she needed to do her duty

BY PENNY JUNOR

As a child, the Queen once confided to her riding instructor that had she not been who she was, she would "like to be a lady living in the country with lots of horses and dogs". Fortunately for Britain and the Commonwealth, she was who she was. She became monarch, and for seven decades, she worked tirelessly and selflessly, as she had vowed on her 21st birthday that she would.

For someone who was fundamentally shy, being the most recognised woman in the world was not an easy role. What made it bearable was her lifelong bond with horses and dogs – particularly the dogs with which she became synonymous: her corgis. They were her closest companions, her most faithful friends, and her means of unwinding. Taking herself off for long walks with them was one of her greatest joys, which is arguably what kept her so fit and well for so many years.

As Lady Pamela Hicks, a first cousin of the Duke of Edinburgh, once said, "The Queen is a very private person; a loner. She longs to be in a room with nobody else. The dogs, the horses, her husband... She has few friends and if she had to choose between the dogs, the horses and the friends, there is no doubt which she would choose."

They were also a very useful tool for putting people at their ease. David Nott, the surgeon famous for his voluntary work in war zones, was invited to lunch at Buckingham Palace in 2014. Ten days earlier he had been in Aleppo, scene of the fiercest fighting in the Syrian civil war, where he had seen things no one ought to see.

He was seated next to the Queen. When she turned to him and said, "I hear you've just been in Aleppo", his bottom lip quivered and all he could do was stare long and hard at the wall. "There's no doubt I was suffering from post-traumatic stress," he later said. Realising there was something wrong, the Queen started talking about her dogs and asked if Nott would like to see them. A courtier brought them in and they went under the table. Then a silver tin of dog biscuits arrived. "Why don't we feed the dogs?" she said, breaking a biscuit in half. "We kept feeding them and stroking them for half an hour or so as she chatted and told me all about them. She was really so kind to me. She wasn't the Queen any more but this lovely person with a human face. There's

no doubt she helped me." As Nott has said, "The humanity of what she did was unbelievable."

The Queen's entry into a room would often be heralded by a pack of these energetic little dogs. At times, she had up to 10 of them and they went everywhere with her, travelling by train, plane and car. At weekends, the Queen would often pack them into an estate car and drive them herself from London to Windsor Castle. They would jump from seat to seat barking at dogs they saw out of the windows.

When historians of the future look back over her long reign, they will marvel, not that she had so many dogs – more than 30 in all, although some of her predecessors had more than 100 – but at her loyalty to a particular breed. Her love affair with corgis began at the age of seven, when she persuaded her father, then the Duke of York, to buy one. Those were the halcyon days before her grandfather's death and her uncle's abdication, when the family divided their time between 145 Piccadilly and Royal Lodge in Windsor Great Park, and life was idyllic.

The family already had several dogs, including Labradors, a spaniel and a shih-tzu, gifted to them on a tour of the Empire in 1927, but Princess Elizabeth and her sister, Margaret, used to play with the children of a neighbour who had a corgi that did tricks and was much more fun than their own dogs.

Unable to deny his daughters anything, the Duke contacted the breeder who, in 1933, brought three puppies to 145 Piccadilly for the family to choose from. They chose the only one that had a stump of a tail. "We must have the one which has something to wag," announced the Duchess. "Otherwise, how are we going to know whether he is pleased or not?"

And so Dookie came into their lives. He was a pretty bad-tempered creature who nipped many a hand that fed him and occasionally passing strangers too. Nevertheless, it was the start of a love affair with corgis for both Elizabeth and her mother.

But Dookie, and a bitch, Jane, who arrived the same year, belonged to the family. Elizabeth had to wait until her 18th birthday to have one of her own. Her father gave her a puppy, called Susan, and every corgi that the Queen bred in the course of more than seven decades was descended from Susan.

But, while they were related to Susan, not all of those dogs were pure-bred. In the late 1960s, Tiny, one of the Queen's corgis, became romantically involved with Princess Margaret's smooth-coated miniature dachshund Pipkin. The sisters were enchanted with the resulting puppies which – ahead of the trend for portmanteau names – they called "dorgis". And although the initial cross had been an accident, the Queen went on to produce many more of these cross-breeds.

The mating and the whelping of her dogs, for most of those years, was done under the watchful eye of Nancy Fenwick, the wife of the head gamekeeper at Windsor, in their kitchen, just a stone's throw from the castle. Their house became a home from home for the corgis and dorgis, and whenever the Queen was unable to have the dogs with her, Fenwick acted *in loco parentis*. An elegant woman, she was often to be seen on the tarmac when the Queen was either about to board an aircraft or

'If she had to choose between the dogs, the horses and the friends, there is no doubt which she would choose'

returning from a flight, discreetly handing over the dogs. She and the Queen were close friends and both very experienced at breeding, training and handling dogs.

In 1984, the dog behaviourist Roger Mugford was called in to help after some nasty fights among the corgis and dorgis. Several people had been bitten while trying to separate them, including the Queen Mother. He expected to find the problem was a lack of control, but was impressed by how well the Queen managed her dogs, how authoritative and skilful she was with them. At feeding time, the Queen would get the dogs to sit in a semicircle. She would then place a bowl down in front of each dog and they would not move until she gave them permission to eat. The problem, he determined, was the sheer number – she had 10 at the time, and he advised her to get no more. He also suggested she remove a

particular troublemaker from the pack – a young dorgi called Piper, who was duly dispatched to live with Princess Anne at Gatcombe. The problem, he told the Queen, was that she'd become "a collector". Prince Philip, she confessed, told her the same thing.

Philip did not share his wife's enthusiasm for corgis – and could be quite vocal about it, as with most things. He put up with them for the length of his marriage, and Susan even came on honeymoon with them; but his favoured dogs were Labradors, which were gun dogs, not pets. And while corgis are the dogs that most people associate with the Queen, she also had a passion for gun dogs – Labradors and spaniels – which she bred and housed in kennels at Sandringham.

She was fascinated by bloodlines, whether in dogs or horses, which, of course, she also bred with great expertise. And she trained and worked her dogs in field trials, with extraordinary skill. She had grown up with shooting – the Royal family have taken part in blood sports through the ages – but few women at that time shot game. She watched, but what fascinated her was to see the dogs working to retrieve the birds. Her father had not thought it fitting for princesses to pick up, and so it was, until she was encouraged by her first gun-dog trainer, Jack Curtis, to handle a Labrador. It turned out she had a real talent for it, and what particularly interested her was working a dog from a distance.

There are people in the gun-dog world who still talk about the day, decades ago, that the Queen made a retrieve from about 800 yards with her Labrador Sherry. "She was so involved she didn't realise the drive had ended and that the shooting party had gathered behind her," according to one of them. "At last Sherry hit the scent, picked up the bird and came galloping back. There was a spatter of applause and the Queen was overcome with embarrassment, saying she could never have done that had she known all those people were watching."

Surprising, after so many years in the public eye. But at heart she was still fundamentally a shy woman who loved dogs, horses and the countryside.

Penny Junor is the author of *All The Queen's Corgis* (Hodder & Stoughton)

Queenhood: it is
law and lore,
the dream life
and the
documentary,
a truthful fantasy.
For generations
we will not know
such majesty

FROM QUEENHOOD
A poem for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022
by Simon Armitage, Poet Laureate*

